

By: Morrison

H.B. No. 3827

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the authority of the governing board of a junior college  
3 district to hold an open or closed meeting by telephone conference  
4 call.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 551, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 551.122 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 551.122. GOVERNING BOARD OF JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT:  
9 QUORUM PRESENT AT ONE LOCATION. (a) This chapter does not prohibit  
10 the governing board of a junior college district from holding an  
11 open or closed meeting by telephone conference call.

12 (b) A meeting held by telephone conference call authorized  
13 by this section may be held only if a quorum of the governing board  
14 is physically present at the location where meetings of the board  
15 are usually held.

16 (c) The telephone conference call meeting is subject to the  
17 notice requirements applicable to other meetings.

18 (d) Each part of the telephone conference call meeting that  
19 is required to be open to the public shall be audible to the public  
20 at the location where the quorum is present and shall be  
21 tape-recorded. The tape recording shall be made available to the  
22 public.

23 (e) The location of the meeting shall provide two-way  
24 communication during the entire telephone conference call meeting,

1 and the identification of each party to the telephone conference  
2 shall be clearly stated before the party speaks.

3 (f) The authority provided by this section is in addition to  
4 the authority provided by Section 551.121.

5 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 551.121, Government Code,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 551.121. GOVERNING BOARD OF INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
8 EDUCATION; BOARD FOR LEASE OF UNIVERSITY LANDS: SPECIAL MEETING  
9 FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION.

10 SECTION 3. Section 551.121(c), Government Code, is amended  
11 to read as follows:

12 (c) A meeting held by telephone conference call authorized  
13 by this section may be held only if:

14 (1) the meeting is a special called meeting and  
15 immediate action is required; and

16 (2) the convening at one location of a quorum of the  
17 governing board or Board for Lease of University Lands is difficult  
18 or impossible.

19 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
20 to a meeting of the governing board of a junior college district for  
21 which notice is given under Chapter 551, Government Code, on or  
22 after the effective date of this Act.

23 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.