

By: Bolton

H.B. No. 2051

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring a record vote by each house or committee of
3 the legislature on bills, proposed constitutional amendments, and
4 amendments to bills and proposed constitutional amendments.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 301.035 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 301.035. RECORD VOTE ON BILLS AND OTHER MEASURES
9 REQUIRED. (a) A vote taken by a house or committee of the
10 legislature must be by record vote if the vote is on:

11 (1) approval or disapproval of a bill on second or
12 third reading or of an amendment or substitute to a bill on second
13 or third reading; or

14 (2) approval or disapproval of a joint resolution
15 proposing or ratifying a constitutional amendment on second or
16 third reading or of an amendment or substitute to such a joint
17 resolution on second or third reading.

18 (b) How each member voted on a matter described by
19 Subsection (a) shall be recorded in the journal of the appropriate
20 house or in the minutes of the appropriate committee.

21 (c) The secretary of the senate or chief clerk of the house
22 of representatives, as applicable, shall:

23 (1) promptly publish each record vote required by this
24 section, including the vote of each individual member, on the

1 public Internet website maintained by or for the appropriate house
2 in a manner that is easily accessible and searchable by members of
3 the public; and

4 (2) permanently maintain that information on the
5 Internet website.

6 (d) In enacting this section, each house of the legislature
7 is exercising its constitutional authority to determine the rules
8 of its own proceedings. The requirements of this section are
9 cumulative of any other requirements of law or rule regarding the
10 recording or publication of votes taken by a house or committee of
11 the legislature. In each house, this section has the effect of, and
12 is enforceable in the same manner as, a rule adopted by resolution.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.