

By: Strama

H.B. No. 3298

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the requirement to post notice of the subject of a
3 meeting under the open meetings law as it relates to informal
4 discussion of a social, ceremonial, or community event.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 551, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 551.0415 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 551.0415. INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF SOCIAL, CEREMONIAL,
9 OR COMMUNITY EVENT. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 551.041 and
10 551.042, a quorum of a governmental body may informally discuss a
11 social, ceremonial, or community event during a meeting without
12 having given notice of the subject of the discussion as required by
13 this subchapter if:

14 (1) the informal discussion concerns matters
15 unrelated to public business conducted by the governmental body;
16 and

17 (2) the quorum of the governmental body complies with
18 Section 551.042 with regard to any public business incidental to
19 the social, ceremonial, or community event that arises during the
20 discussion.

21 (b) The following matters are considered unrelated to
22 public business for purposes of Subsection (a)(1):

23 (1) expressions of condolence;

24 (2) a reminder about an upcoming event sponsored by

1 the governmental body;

2 (3) an honorary or salutary recognition of a public
3 official, public employee, or other citizen, except that a
4 discussion regarding a change in the status of a person's public
5 office or public employment is not an honorary or salutary
6 recognition for purposes of this subdivision; and

7 (4) a discussion regarding a public official's
8 attendance at an upcoming social, ceremonial, or community event.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.