

1-1 By: White (Senate Sponsor - Nichols) H.B. No. 1500
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2011;
1-3 May 9, 2011, read first time and referred to Select Committee on
1-4 Open Government; May 20, 2011, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 20, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to allowing the commissioners court of a county to
1-9 deliberate in a closed meeting regarding business and financial
1-10 issues related to a contract being negotiated.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 551.0725(a), Government Code, is amended
1-13 to read as follows:

1-14 (a) The commissioners court of a county [~~with a population~~
1-15 ~~of 400,000 or more~~] may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate
1-16 business and financial issues relating to a contract being
1-17 negotiated if, before conducting the closed meeting:

1-18 (1) the commissioners court votes unanimously that
1-19 deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on
1-20 the position of the commissioners court in negotiations with a
1-21 third person; and

1-22 (2) the attorney advising the commissioners court
1-23 issues a written determination that deliberation in an open meeting
1-24 would have a detrimental effect on the position of the
1-25 commissioners court in negotiations with a third person.

1-26 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
1-27 to a meeting held on or after the effective date of this Act. A
1-28 meeting held before the effective date of this Act is governed by
1-29 the law in effect on the date the meeting is held, and the former law
1-30 is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-31 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-32 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-33 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-34 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-35 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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