

By: Martinez Fischer

H.B. No. 2754

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the electronic submission of testimony regarding a bill
3 or resolution before a committee or subcommittee of the
4 legislature.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 323, Government Code, is amended by
7 adding Section 323.0146 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 323.0146. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF COMMITTEE
9 TESTIMONY ON PENDING LEGISLATION. (a) The council shall provide a
10 link to be posted on the public Internet website of the senate and
11 of the house of representatives to allow a person to access an
12 Internet page on which the person may submit electronic testimony
13 regarding a bill or resolution that is pending before a committee or
14 subcommittee of the applicable house of the legislature.

15 (b) The Internet page must require a person submitting
16 electronic testimony to provide the following:

17 (1) the name of the committee or subcommittee that is
18 considering the bill or resolution;

19 (2) the number of the bill or resolution for which the
20 person is providing testimony and whether the person is for,
21 against, or neutral on the measure;

22 (3) the name, address, and telephone number of the
23 person;

24 (4) whether the person is providing testimony on the

1 person's own behalf or on behalf of any other person, organization,
2 business, class of persons, or group;

3 (5) the type of business, profession, or occupation in
4 which the person is engaged, if the person is providing the
5 testimony on the person's own behalf;

6 (6) a secure acknowledgment by the person that the
7 submitted testimony is a sworn statement that is true and correct;
8 and

9 (7) any other information required by the procedural
10 rules of the senate or the house of representatives, as applicable,
11 of a witness testifying in person before a committee.

12 (c) The council shall ensure that electronic testimony may
13 be submitted under this section only when the bill or resolution is
14 pending before the applicable committee or subcommittee, but not
15 later than the time at which a public hearing to consider the
16 measure is posted to begin.

17 (d) The council shall ensure that electronic testimony
18 submitted under this section is immediately forwarded to the
19 committee e-mail address of the clerk of the committee or
20 subcommittee in which the bill or resolution is pending.

21 (e) Electronic testimony submitted under this section shall
22 be considered for all purposes as if it were provided in person by a
23 witness appearing before the committee or subcommittee.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.