

By: Hunter

H.B. No. 2977

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to electronic communications during a public meeting;
3 creating an offense.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 551.143, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read
7 as follows:

8 (a) A member or group of members of a governmental body
9 commits an offense if the member or group of members knowingly:

10 (1) conspires to circumvent this chapter by meeting in
11 numbers less than a quorum for the purpose of secret deliberations
12 in violation of this chapter; or

13 (2) transmits an electronic communication during a
14 public meeting.

15 (c) In this section, "electronic communication" includes an
16 e-mail, text message, instant message, or posting on an Internet
17 website.

18 (d) Subsection (a)(2) does not apply to an electronic
19 communication that contains only administrative or ministerial
20 information or that is sent in relation to an emergency situation.

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