

1-1 By: Wentworth S.B. No. 1906
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed April 14, 2011; April 18, 2011, read
1-3 first time and referred to Select Committee on Open Government;
1-4 April 29, 2011, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; April 29, 2011,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1906 By: Wentworth

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to certain notice requirements for municipalities and
1-11 counties under the open meetings law.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Section 551.0415, Government Code, is amended to
1-14 read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 551.0415. GOVERNING BODY OF MUNICIPALITY OR
1-16 COUNTY: REPORTS ABOUT ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST REGARDING WHICH
1-17 NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 551.041 and
1-18 551.042, a quorum of the governing body of a municipality or county
1-19 may receive from ~~[municipal]~~ staff of the political subdivision and
1-20 a member of the governing body may make a report about items of
1-21 community interest during a meeting of the governing body without
1-22 having given notice of the subject of the report as required by this
1-23 subchapter if no action is taken and, except as provided by Section
1-24 551.042, possible action is not discussed regarding the information
1-25 provided in the report.

1-26 (b) For purposes of Subsection (a), "items of community
1-27 interest" includes:

1-28 (1) expressions of thanks, congratulations, or
1-29 condolence;

1-30 (2) information regarding holiday schedules;

1-31 (3) an honorary or salutary recognition of a public
1-32 official, public employee, or other citizen, except that a
1-33 discussion regarding a change in the status of a person's public
1-34 office or public employment is not an honorary or salutary
1-35 recognition for purposes of this subdivision;

1-36 (4) a reminder about an upcoming event organized or
1-37 sponsored by the governing body;

1-38 (5) information regarding a social, ceremonial, or
1-39 community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the
1-40 governing body that was attended or is scheduled to be attended by a
1-41 member of the governing body or an official or employee of the
1-42 political subdivision [municipality]; and

1-43 (6) announcements involving an imminent threat to the
1-44 public health and safety of people in the political subdivision
1-45 [municipality] that has arisen after the posting of the agenda.

1-46 SECTION 2. Section 551.050, Government Code, is amended to
1-47 read as follows:

1-48 Sec. 551.050. MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTAL BODY: PLACE OF
1-49 POSTING NOTICE. (a) In this section, "electronic bulletin board"
1-50 means an electronic communication system that includes a
1-51 perpetually illuminated screen on which the governmental body can
1-52 post messages or notices viewable without manipulation by the
1-53 public.

1-54 (b) A municipal governmental body shall post notice of each
1-55 meeting on a physical or electronic bulletin board at a place
1-56 convenient to the public in the city hall.

1-57 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-58 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-59 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-60 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-61 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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