

By: Branch, Vo, et al.

H.B. No. 31

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to certain requirements applicable to meetings of the
3 governing board of a general academic teaching institution or a
4 state university system.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 551, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 551.1281 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 551.1281. GOVERNING BOARD OF GENERAL ACADEMIC TEACHING
9 INSTITUTION OR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM: INTERNET POSTING OF MEETING
10 MATERIALS AND BROADCAST OF OPEN MEETING. (a) In this section,
11 "general academic teaching institution" and "university system"
12 have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

13 (b) The governing board of a general academic teaching
14 institution or of a university system that includes one or more
15 component general academic teaching institutions, for any
16 regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board for which notice
17 is required under this chapter, shall:

18 (1) post as early as practicable in advance of the
19 meeting on the Internet website of the institution or university
20 system, as applicable, any written agenda and related supplemental
21 written materials provided by the institution or system to the
22 governing board members for the members' use during the meeting;

23 (2) broadcast the meeting, other than any portions of
24 the meeting closed to the public as authorized by law, over the

1 Internet in the manner prescribed by Section 551.128; and
2 (3) record the broadcast and make that recording
3 publicly available in an online archive located on the
4 institution's or university system's Internet website.

5 (c) Subsection (b)(1) does not apply to written materials
6 that the general counsel or other appropriate attorney for the
7 institution or university system certifies are confidential or may
8 be withheld from public disclosure under Chapter 552.

9 (d) The governing board of a general academic teaching
10 institution or of a university system is not required to comply with
11 the requirements of this section if that compliance is not possible
12 because of an act of God, force majeure, or a similar cause not
13 reasonably within the governing board's control.

14 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
15 to a meeting of the governing board of a general academic teaching
16 institution or of a state university system for which notice is
17 given under Chapter 551, Government Code, on or after January 1,
18 2014.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.