

By: Fallon

H.B. No. 889

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the requirement that certain governmental bodies
3 broadcast meetings on the Internet.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 551.128, Government Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1) and
7 (b-2) to read as follows:

8 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1) and subject
9 [Subject] to the requirements of this section, a governmental body
10 may broadcast an open meeting over the Internet.

11 (b-1) The governing body of a county, public school
12 district, or home-rule municipality with a population of 50,000 or
13 more shall:

14 (1) broadcast each regularly scheduled open meeting
15 over the Internet; and

16 (2) make available archived video and audio of each
17 meeting broadcast over the Internet under this subsection.

18 (b-2) A governmental body described by Subsection (b-1) may
19 broadcast a regularly scheduled open meeting and make available
20 archived video and audio of a meeting over an existing Internet
21 site, including a publicly accessible video-sharing or social
22 networking site. The governmental body is not required to establish
23 a separate Internet site and provide access to broadcasts from that
24 site. The governmental body is still subject to the notice

1 requirements under Subsection (c) in relation to the site at which
2 the meetings are available.

3 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (b-2), a [A]
4 governmental body that broadcasts a meeting over the Internet shall
5 establish an Internet site and provide access to the broadcast from
6 that site. The governmental body shall provide on the Internet site
7 the same notice of the meeting that the governmental body is
8 required to post under Subchapter C. The notice on the Internet must
9 be posted within the time required for posting notice under
10 Subchapter C.

11 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
12 an open meeting held on or after the effective date of this Act. An
13 open meeting that is held before the effective date of this Act is
14 governed by the law in effect on the date of the open meeting, and
15 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.