

1-1 By: Williams S.B. No. 293
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 29, 2013; February 5, 2013,
1-3 read first time and referred to Select Committee on Open
1-4 Government; February 27, 2013, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; February 27, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9			X	
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			

1-13 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to the authority of certain water districts to hold
1-16 meetings by teleconference or videoconference.

1-17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-18 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 551, Government Code, is
1-19 amended by adding Section 551.131 to read as follows:

1-20 Sec. 551.131. WATER DISTRICTS. (a) In this section,
1-21 "water district" means a river authority, groundwater conservation
1-22 district, water control and improvement district, or other district
1-23 created under Section 52, Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI,
1-24 Texas Constitution.

1-25 (b) This section applies only to a water district whose
1-26 territory includes land in three or more counties.

1-27 (c) A meeting held by telephone conference call or video
1-28 conference call authorized by this section may be held only if:

1-29 (1) the meeting is a special called meeting and
1-30 immediate action is required; and

1-31 (2) the convening at one location of a quorum of the
1-32 governing body of the applicable water district is difficult or
1-33 impossible.

1-34 (d) A meeting held by telephone conference call must
1-35 otherwise comply with the procedures under Sections 551.125(c),
1-36 (d), (e), and (f).

1-37 (e) A meeting held by video conference call is subject to
1-38 the notice requirements applicable to other meetings. In addition,
1-39 a meeting held by video conference call shall:

1-40 (1) be visible and audible to the public at the
1-41 location specified in the notice of the meeting as the location of
1-42 the meeting;

1-43 (2) be recorded by audio and video; and

1-44 (3) have two-way audio and video communications with
1-45 each participant in the meeting during the entire meeting.

1-46 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-47 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-48 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-49 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-50 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

1-51 * * * * *