

By: Estes  
(Kleinschmidt)

S.B. No. 916

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to quorums and meetings by teleconference of the Texas  
3 Bioenergy Policy Council and the Texas Bioenergy Research  
4 Committee.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subsection (e), Section 50D.011, Agriculture  
7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 (e) Subject to Section 50D.017, the [The] policy council is  
9 subject to Chapters 551 and 2001, Government Code.

10 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 50D, Agriculture Code, is  
11 amended by adding Sections 50D.016 and 50D.017 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 50D.016. QUORUM. A quorum of the policy council  
13 consists of not less than half of the members of the policy council.  
14 A member who participates in a meeting by telephone conference  
15 call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method  
16 may be counted to establish a quorum.

17 Sec. 50D.017. MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

18 (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any other  
19 law, the policy council may hold an open or closed meeting by  
20 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar  
21 telecommunication method if:

22 (1) notice is given for the meeting as for other  
23 meetings;

24 (2) the notice specifies a location for the meeting at

1 which the public may attend;

2 (3) each part of the meeting that is required to be  
3 open to the public is audible to the public at the location  
4 specified in the notice of the meeting; and

5 (4) the meeting is recorded by electronic or other  
6 means and the recording of each portion of the meeting that is  
7 required to be open to the public is made available to the public.

8 (b) A member of the policy council may participate by  
9 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar  
10 telecommunication method in a policy council meeting at which other  
11 members are physically present and may vote.

12 SECTION 3. Subsection (e), Section 50D.021, Agriculture  
13 Code, is amended to read as follows:

14 (e) Subject to Section 50D.026, [The] research committee is  
15 subject to Chapters 551 and 2001, Government Code.

16 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 50D, Agriculture Code, is  
17 amended by adding Sections 50D.025 and 50D.026 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 50D.025. QUORUM. A quorum of the research committee  
19 consists of not less than half of the members of the research  
20 committee. A member who participates in a meeting by telephone  
21 conference call, videoconference, or other similar  
22 telecommunication method may be counted to establish a quorum.

23 Sec. 50D.026. MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

24 (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any other  
25 law, the research committee may hold an open or closed meeting by  
26 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar  
27 telecommunication method if:

1           (1) notice is given for the meeting as for other  
2 meetings;

3           (2) the notice specifies a location for the meeting at  
4 which the public may attend;

5           (3) each part of the meeting that is required to be  
6 open to the public is audible to the public at the location  
7 specified in the notice of the meeting; and

8           (4) the meeting is recorded by electronic or other  
9 means and the recording of each portion of the meeting that is  
10 required to be open to the public is made available to the public.

11           (b) A member of the research committee may participate by  
12 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar  
13 telecommunication method in a research committee meeting at which  
14 other members are physically present and may vote.

15           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.