

By: Estes

S.B. No. 916

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
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. Section 50D.011(e), Agriculture Code, is amended
7 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. (a)
18 Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any other law, the
19 policy council may hold an open or closed meeting by telephone
20 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. Section 50D.021(e), Agriculture Code, is amended
13 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. (a)
24 Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any other law, the
25 research committee may hold an open or closed meeting by telephone
26 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.