

1-1 By: Estes S.B. No. 916
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 27, 2013; March 5, 2013,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Open Government;
 1-4 March 20, 2013, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 4,
 1-5 Nays 0; March 20, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
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 quorums and meetings by teleconference of the Texas
 1-16 Bioenergy Policy Council and the Texas Bioenergy Research
 1-17 Committee.

1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-19 SECTION 1. Subsection (e), Section 50D.011, Agriculture
 1-20 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-21 (e) Subject to Section 50D.017, the [The] policy council is
 1-22 subject to Chapters 551 and 2001, Government Code.

1-23 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 50D, Agriculture Code, is
 1-24 amended by adding Sections 50D.016 and 50D.017 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 50D.016. QUORUM. A quorum of the policy council
 1-26 consists of not less than half of the members of the policy council.
 1-27 A member who participates in a meeting by telephone conference
 1-28 call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method
 1-29 may be counted to establish a quorum.

1-30 Sec. 50D.017. MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

1-31 (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any other
 1-32 law, the policy council may hold an open or closed meeting by
 1-33 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
 1-34 telecommunication method if:

1-35 (1) notice is given for the meeting as for other
 1-36 meetings;

1-37 (2) the notice specifies a location for the meeting at
 1-38 which the public may attend;

1-39 (3) each part of the meeting that is required to be
 1-40 open to the public is audible to the public at the location
 1-41 specified in the notice of the meeting; and

1-42 (4) the meeting is recorded by electronic or other
 1-43 means and the recording of each portion of the meeting that is
 1-44 required to be open to the public is made available to the public.

1-45 (b) A member of the policy council may participate by
 1-46 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
 1-47 telecommunication method in a policy council meeting at which other
 1-48 members are physically present and may vote.

1-49 SECTION 3. Subsection (e), Section 50D.021, Agriculture
 1-50 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-51 (e) Subject to Section 50D.026, [The] research committee is
 1-52 subject to Chapters 551 and 2001, Government Code.

1-53 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 50D, Agriculture Code, is
 1-54 amended by adding Sections 50D.025 and 50D.026 to read as follows:

1-55 Sec. 50D.025. QUORUM. A quorum of the research committee
 1-56 consists of not less than half of the members of the research
 1-57 committee. A member who participates in a meeting by telephone
 1-58 conference call, videoconference, or other similar
 1-59 telecommunication method may be counted to establish a quorum.

1-60 Sec. 50D.026. MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

1-61 (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any other

2-1 law, the research committee may hold an open or closed meeting by
2-2 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
2-3 telecommunication method if:

2-4 (1) notice is given for the meeting as for other
2-5 meetings;

2-6 (2) the notice specifies a location for the meeting at
2-7 which the public may attend;

2-8 (3) each part of the meeting that is required to be
2-9 open to the public is audible to the public at the location
2-10 specified in the notice of the meeting; and

2-11 (4) the meeting is recorded by electronic or other
2-12 means and the recording of each portion of the meeting that is
2-13 required to be open to the public is made available to the public.

2-14 (b) A member of the research committee may participate by
2-15 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
2-16 telecommunication method in a research committee meeting at which
2-17 other members are physically present and may vote.

2-18 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-22 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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