

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 984

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the meeting of a governmental body held by  
3 videoconference call.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subsections (c), (e), (f), and (h), Section  
6 551.127, Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (c) A meeting of a state governmental body or a governmental  
8 body that extends into three or more counties may be held by  
9 videoconference call only if the member [~~a majority of the quorum~~]  
10 of the governmental body presiding over the meeting is physically  
11 present at one location of the meeting that is open to the public  
12 during the open portions of the meeting.

13 (e) The notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference  
14 call must specify as a location of the meeting the location where a  
15 quorum of the governmental body will be physically present and  
16 specify the intent to have a quorum present at that location, except  
17 that the notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference call  
18 under Subsection (c) must specify as a location of the meeting the  
19 [~~each~~] location where the member [~~a majority of the quorum~~] of the  
20 governmental body presiding over the meeting will be physically  
21 present and specify the intent to have the member [~~a majority of the~~  
22 ~~quorum~~] of the governmental body presiding over the meeting present  
23 at that location. The location where the member of the governmental  
24 body presiding over the meeting is physically present [~~In addition,~~

1 ~~the notice of the meeting must specify as a location of the meeting~~  
2 ~~each other location where a member of the governmental body who will~~  
3 ~~participate in the meeting will be physically present during the~~  
4 ~~meeting. Each of the locations]~~ shall be open to the public during  
5 the open portions of the meeting.

6 (f) Each portion of a meeting held by videoconference call  
7 that is required to be open to the public shall be visible and  
8 audible to the public at the [each] location specified under  
9 Subsection (e). If a problem occurs that causes a meeting to no  
10 longer be visible and audible to the public at that location, the  
11 meeting must be recessed until the problem is resolved. If the  
12 problem is not resolved in six hours or less, the meeting must be  
13 adjourned.

14 (h) The [Each] location specified under Subsection (e), and  
15 each remote location from which a member of the governmental body  
16 participates, shall have two-way communication with each other  
17 location during the entire meeting. The face of each [Each]  
18 participant in the videoconference call, while that participant is  
19 speaking, shall be clearly visible, and the voice audible, to each  
20 other participant and, during the open portion of the meeting, to  
21 the members of the public in attendance at a location of the  
22 meeting.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.