

By: Howard

H.B. No. 630

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the Internet broadcast and archiving of open meetings
3 of the Health and Human Services Commission, health and human
4 services agencies, and related advisory entities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 531.0121, Government Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (e) to read as
8 follows:

9 (c) The commission shall make available on the commission's
10 Internet website:

11 (1) the master calendar;

12 (2) all meeting materials for an advisory committee
13 meeting; and

14 (3) streaming live video and audio of each advisory
15 committee meeting.

16 (e) The commission shall ensure that advisory committee
17 meetings are broadcast, are archived on the Internet website of the
18 agency to which the advisory committee provides advice, and are
19 subject to public notice requirements to the same extent and in the
20 same manner that the broadcast, archiving, and notice of agency
21 meetings are required under Section 531.0165.

22 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 531.0165 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 531.0165. INTERNET BROADCAST AND ARCHIVE OF OPEN

1 MEETINGS. (a) In this section, "agency" means the commission or a
2 health and human services agency.

3 (b) Each agency shall:

4 (1) broadcast over the Internet live video and audio
5 of each open meeting of the agency;

6 (2) make a video and audio recording of reasonable
7 quality of the broadcast; and

8 (3) provide access to the archived video and audio on
9 the agency's Internet website.

10 (c) Not later than the seventh day after the date an open
11 meeting is broadcast under this section, the agency shall make
12 available through the agency's Internet website archived video and
13 audio of the open meeting. The agency shall maintain the archived
14 video and audio of the open meeting on the agency's Internet website
15 for not less than two years after the date the archived video and
16 audio was first made available on the website.

17 (d) Each agency shall provide on the agency's Internet
18 website the same notice of the open meeting that the agency is
19 required to post under Subchapter C, Chapter 551. The notice must
20 be posted on the agency's Internet website within the time required
21 for posting notice under Subchapter C, Chapter 551.

22 (e) Each agency may use for an Internet broadcast of an open
23 meeting of the agency a room made available to the agency on request
24 in any state building, as that term is defined by Section 2165.301.

25 (f) Each agency is exempt from the requirements of this
26 section to the extent a catastrophe, as defined by Section
27 551.0411, or a technical breakdown prevents the agency from

1 complying with this section. Following the catastrophe or
2 technical breakdown, the agency shall make all reasonable efforts
3 to make the required video and audio of the open meeting available
4 in a timely manner.

5 (g) The commission shall consider contracting through
6 competitive bidding with a private individual or entity to
7 broadcast and archive an open meeting subject to this section to
8 minimize the cost of complying with this section.

9 (h) The requirements of this section also apply to the
10 meetings of any advisory body that advises the executive
11 commissioner or an agency. The archived video and audio of an
12 advisory body's meeting must be made available through the Internet
13 website of the agency to which the advisory body provides advice.

14 SECTION 3. Sections [531.0051](#)(g) and (m), Government Code,
15 are amended to read as follows:

16 (g) The council shall comply with the requirements of
17 Section [531.0165](#) [~~give public notice of the date, time, and place of~~
18 each meeting held by the council. A live video transmission of
19 each meeting must be publicly available through the Internet]. The
20 archived video and audio of a council meeting must be made available
21 through the commission's Internet website.

22 (m) Except as provided by Section [531.0165](#)(d), Chapters [551](#)
23 and [2110](#) do not apply to the council.

24 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
25 an open meeting held on or after September 1, 2023.

26 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.