

By: Fallon

H.B. No. 2012

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the requirements for meetings of certain special
3 districts.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 551.128(b-1), Government Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (b-1) A transit authority or department subject to Chapter
8 451, 452, 453, or 460, Transportation Code, an elected school
9 district board of trustees for a school district that has a student
10 enrollment of 10,000 or more, an elected governing body of a
11 home-rule municipality that has a population of 50,000 or more, a
12 governing body of a special district subject to Chapter 51, 53, 54,
13 or 55, Water Code, that has a population of 500 or more, or a county
14 commissioners court for a county that has a population of 125,000 or
15 more shall:

16 (1) make a video and audio recording of reasonable
17 quality of each regularly scheduled open meeting that is not a work
18 session or a special called meeting; and

19 (2) make available an archived copy of the video and
20 audio recording of each meeting described by Subdivision (1) on the
21 Internet.

22 SECTION 2. Section 49.062, Water Code, is amended by
23 amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (e) to read
24 as follows:

1 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (e), the [~~The~~] board
2 shall designate one or more places inside or outside the district
3 for conducting the meetings of the board. The meeting place may be
4 a private residence or office, provided that the board, in its order
5 establishing the meeting place, declares the same to be a public
6 place and invites the public to attend any meeting of the board. If
7 the board establishes a meeting place or places outside the
8 district, it shall give notice of the location or locations by
9 filing a true copy of the resolution establishing the location or
10 locations of the meeting place or places with the commission and
11 also by publishing notice of the location or locations in a
12 newspaper of general circulation in the district. If the location
13 of any of the meeting places outside the district is changed, notice
14 of the change shall be given in the same manner.

15 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (e), after [~~After~~] at
16 least 25 qualified electors are residing in a district, on written
17 request of at least five of those electors, the board shall
18 designate a meeting place and hold meetings within the district if
19 it determines that the meeting place used by the district deprives
20 the residents of a reasonable opportunity to attend district
21 meetings. On the failure to designate the location of the meeting
22 place within the district, five electors may petition the
23 commission to designate a location. If it determines that the
24 meeting place used by the district deprives the residents of a
25 reasonable opportunity to attend district meetings, the commission
26 may designate a meeting place inside or outside the district which
27 is reasonably available to the public and require that the meetings

1 be held at such place. After the next election, the board may
2 designate different meeting places, including one located outside
3 the boundaries of the district.

4 (e) This subsection applies to a district with a population
5 of 500 or more. The board shall designate a place inside the
6 district for conducting the meetings of the board. If the board is
7 unable to designate a suitable meeting place inside the district,
8 the board may designate a place outside the district that is located
9 not farther than 10 miles from the district's boundaries.

10 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
11 an open meeting held on or after the effective date of this Act. An
12 open meeting that is held before the effective date of this Act is
13 governed by the law in effect on the date of the open meeting, and
14 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.