

By: Huffines

S.B. No. 116

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Internet broadcast of open meetings of the Texas Racing Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Article 2, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by adding Section 2.115 to read as follows:

Sec. 2.115. INTERNET BROADCAST AND ARCHIVE OF OPEN MEETINGS. (a) The commission shall:

(1) broadcast over the Internet live video and audio of each meeting of the commission that is an open meeting subject to Chapter 551, Government Code;

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

(3) provide access to the archived video and audio of the meeting on the commission's Internet website.

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

1 (c) The commission shall provide on the commission's
2 Internet website the same notice of an open meeting of the
3 commission that the commission is required to post under Subchapter
4 C, Chapter 551, Government Code. The notice must be posted on the
5 commission's Internet website within the time required for posting
6 notice under that subchapter.

7 (d) The commission may use for an Internet broadcast of an
8 open meeting of the commission under this section a room made
9 available to the commission on request in any state building, as
10 that term is defined by Section 2165.301, Government Code.

11 (e) The commission is exempt from the requirements of this
12 section to the extent a catastrophe, as defined by Section
13 551.0411, Government Code, or a technical breakdown prevents the
14 commission from complying with this section. Following the
15 catastrophe or technical breakdown, the commission shall make all
16 reasonable efforts to make the required video and audio of the open
17 meeting available in a timely manner.

18 (f) The commission shall consider contracting through
19 competitive bidding with a private individual or entity to
20 broadcast and archive an open meeting subject to this section to
21 minimize the cost of complying with this section.

22 SECTION 2. Section 2.115, Texas Racing Act (Article 179e,
23 Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as added by this Act, applies only
24 to an open meeting held on or after September 1, 2019.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.