

By: Toth

H.B. No. 2317

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for meetings of certain special districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 49.062, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (b-3) to read as follows:

(b) The board shall designate one or more places inside or outside the district for conducting the meetings of the board. The meeting place may be a private residence or office, provided that the board, in its order establishing the meeting place, declares the same to be a public place and invites the public to attend any meeting of the board.

(b-1) The designated place must provide district residents a reasonable opportunity to attend board meetings.

(b-2) If the board establishes a meeting place or places outside the district:

(1) the place or places must be located within 10 miles of the district boundaries; and

(2) the board ~~[, it]~~ shall give notice of the location or locations by filing a true copy of the resolution establishing the location or locations of the meeting place or places with the commission and also by publishing notice of the location or locations in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.

1 (b-3) If the location of any of the meeting places outside
2 the district is changed, notice of the change shall be given in the
3 same manner.

4 (c) After at least 25 qualified electors are residing in a
5 district, on the written request of at least five of those electors
6 ~~for~~⁷ the board to ~~shall~~ designate a different meeting place to
7 provide district residents a reasonable opportunity to attend
8 district meetings, the board shall determine whether ~~[and hold~~
9 ~~meetings within the district if it determines that]~~ the designated
10 meeting place ~~[used by the district]~~ deprives the residents of a
11 reasonable opportunity to attend district meetings. On the board's
12 failure to designate a different ~~[the location of the]~~ meeting
13 place to provide district residents a reasonable opportunity to
14 attend district meetings ~~[within the district]~~, five electors may
15 petition the commission to designate a different location. If the
16 commission ~~[it]~~ determines that the meeting place used by the
17 district deprives the residents of a reasonable opportunity to
18 attend district meetings, the commission may designate a meeting
19 place inside or outside the district which is reasonably available
20 to the public and require that the meetings be held at that ~~[such]~~
21 place. After the next election, the board may designate different
22 meeting places, including one located outside the boundaries of the
23 district.

24 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
25 an open meeting held on or after the effective date of this Act. An
26 open meeting that is held before the effective date of this Act is
27 governed by the law in effect on the date of the open meeting, and

1 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.