

By: Paxton, Hughes

S.B. No. 838

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Internet broadcast of certain open meetings.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 551, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 551.024 to read as follows:

Sec. 551.024. INTERNET BROADCAST AND ARCHIVE OF OPEN MEETINGS. (a) This section applies only to a governmental body that is an agency within the executive or legislative branch of state government to which the total appropriation made in the General Appropriations Act from general revenue for any fiscal year beginning on or after September 1, 2019, including any amount of general revenue transferred to the governmental body under that Act for that fiscal year, is greater than \$40 million and for which the bill pattern for the General Appropriations Act for the same fiscal year designates 250 or more full-time employees.

(b) A governmental body that becomes subject to this section under Subsection (a) for a fiscal year shall comply with this section in each following fiscal year.

(c) A governmental body subject to this section shall broadcast over the Internet live video and audio of each open meeting of the governmental body. The governmental body shall provide access to the broadcast on the governmental body's Internet website.

(d) Not later than the seventh day after the date an open

1 meeting is broadcast under this section, the governmental body  
2 shall make available through the governmental body's Internet  
3 website archived video and audio of the open meeting. The  
4 governmental body shall maintain the archived video and audio of  
5 the open meeting on the governmental body's Internet website until  
6 the second anniversary of the date the archived video and audio was  
7 first made available on the website.

8 (e) The governmental body shall provide on the governmental  
9 body's Internet website the same notice of the open meeting that the  
10 governmental body is required to post under Subchapter C. The  
11 notice must be posted on the governmental body's Internet website  
12 within the time required for posting notice under Subchapter C.

13 (f) The governmental body may use for an Internet broadcast  
14 of an open meeting of the governmental body a room made available to  
15 the governmental body on request in any state building, as defined  
16 by Section [2165.301](#).

17 (g) The governmental body is exempt from the requirements of  
18 this section to the extent a catastrophe, as defined by Section  
19 [551.0411](#), or a technical breakdown prevents the governmental body  
20 from complying with this section. Following the catastrophe or  
21 technical breakdown, the governmental body shall make all  
22 reasonable efforts to make the required video and audio of the open  
23 meeting available in a timely manner.

24 (h) The governmental body shall consider contracting  
25 through competitive bidding with a private individual or entity to  
26 broadcast and archive an open meeting subject to this section to  
27 minimize the cost of complying with this section.

1           SECTION 2. Section 551.024, Government Code, as added by  
2 this Act, applies only to an open meeting held on or after September  
3 1, 2021.

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