

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 244  
By: Bettencourt  
Natural Resources & Economic Development  
5/25/2021  
Enrolled

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Tax increment reinvestment zones (TIRZs) are special zones created to attract new investment in a designated area. These zones help finance costs of redevelopment and promote growth in areas that would otherwise not attract sufficient market development in a timely manner. Taxes attributable to new improvements (tax increments) are set aside in a fund to finance public improvements within the boundaries of the zone.

However, there have been issues with proper accountability of TIRZs in the past, and a lack of transparency. S.B. 244 would specifically place a meeting of the board of directors of a TIRZ under the authority of the Texas Open Meetings Act. This will improve the public's ability to be notified and attend meetings of a TIRZ, should they choose.

S.B. 244 amends current law relating to the application of the open meetings law to the board of directors of certain tax reinvestment zones.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 551.001(3), Government Code, to redefine "governmental body," for the purposes of Chapter 551 (Open Meetings), to include a board of directors of a reinvestment zone created under Chapter 311 (Tax Increment Financing Act), Tax Code. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2021.