

By: Gates

H.B. No. 1473

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for meetings held and Internet websites developed by certain special purpose districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 551.1283, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 551.1283. GOVERNING BODY OF CERTAIN WATER DISTRICTS: INTERNET WEBSITES [~~POSTING OF MEETING MATERIALS~~]; RECORDING OF MEETINGS [~~CERTAIN HEARINGS~~]. (a) In this section, "board" means the governing body of a special purpose district to which this section applies.

(a-1) This section only applies to a special purpose district subject to Chapter 51, 53, 54, or 55, Water Code, that has a population of 500 or more.

(b) A [~~On written request of a district resident made to the district not later than the third day before a public hearing to consider the adoption of an ad valorem tax rate, the~~] district shall develop and maintain an Internet website [~~make an audio recording of reasonable quality of the hearing and provide the recording to the resident in an electronic format not later than the fifth business day after the date of the hearing. The district shall maintain a copy of the recording for at least one year after the date of the hearing~~].

(c) A district shall make available on the district's

1 Internet website:

2 (1) contact information for each member of the board;

3 (2) the time and place of the next meeting of the
4 board;

5 (3) a live video stream of each meeting of the board;

6 (4) a video recording of each meeting of the board
7 posted not later than the fifth business day after the date of the
8 meeting and maintained for not less than one year;

9 (5) the minutes of each meeting of the board; and

10 (6) information about:

11 (A) the budget set by the district; and

12 (B) any tax rate set by the district ~~[post the~~
13 ~~minutes of the meeting of the governing body to the district's~~
14 ~~Internet website if the district maintains an Internet website].~~

15 SECTION 2. Section 49.062(b), Water Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (b) The board shall designate one or more places inside ~~or~~
18 ~~outside~~ the district for conducting the meetings of the board. The
19 meeting place may be a private residence or office, provided that
20 the board, in its order establishing the meeting place, declares
21 the same to be a public place and invites the public to attend any
22 meeting of the board. If the board establishes that no suitable
23 place exists for meeting inside the district, a meeting place or
24 places outside the district may be designated. The board ~~[, it]~~
25 shall give notice of the location or locations of a meeting place or
26 places outside the district by filing a true copy of the resolution
27 establishing the location or locations of the meeting place or

1 places and a justification of why the meeting will not be held in
2 the district or within 10 miles of the boundary of the district, if
3 applicable, with the commission and also by publishing notice of
4 the location or locations in a newspaper of general circulation in
5 the district. If the location of any of the meeting places outside
6 the district is changed, notice of the change shall be given in the
7 same manner.

8 SECTION 3. Sections [49.062\(c\)](#), (c-1), (e), (f), and (g),
9 Water Code, are repealed.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.