

By: Jetton

H.B. No. 3253

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to meetings held by certain conservation and reclamation districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 49.064, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 49.064. MEETINGS. (a) The board shall hold such regular and special meetings as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the district's business. Except as otherwise provided by this section, all ~~[All]~~ meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the open meetings law, Chapter 551, Government Code. A meeting of a committee of the board, or a committee composed of representatives of more than one board, where less than a quorum of any one board is present is not subject to the provisions of the open meetings law, Chapter 551, Government Code.

(b) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, including Sections 551.125, 551.127, and 551.131 of that code, or any other law, the board may hold an open or closed meeting by telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method. The board may use a telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method for purposes of establishing a quorum, for voting, or for any other meeting purpose.

(c) A meeting held by telephone conference call,

1 videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method is
2 subject to the notice requirements applicable to other board
3 meetings.

4 (d) The notice of a meeting to be held by telephone
5 conference call, videoconference, or other similar
6 telecommunication method must include:

7 (1) a toll-free telephone number or free-of-charge
8 access information for any audiovisual or audio-only feeds that
9 members of the public may use to hear and, if applicable, speak at
10 the meeting; and

11 (2) instructions for a member of the public on how to
12 use a remote access method described by Subdivision (1) to speak at
13 the meeting from a remote location.

14 (e) If the board prepares an agenda packet or regular
15 written reports that would have been distributed to members of the
16 public at a face-to-face meeting, the board shall make the packet
17 and any reports available electronically.

18 (f) If the board holds a meeting by telephone conference
19 call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method,
20 the board shall make a recording of the meeting with clear audio
21 quality. The board shall make the recording available to the public
22 for at least one year after the date of the meeting.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.