

By: González of Dallas

H.B. No. 4433

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to public access to hearings or other proceedings for  
3 setting bail.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 17, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
6 amended by adding Article 17.50 to read as follows:

7 Art. 17.50. PROCEEDING OPEN TO PUBLIC. (a) Any hearing or  
8 other proceeding at which a magistrate sets the amount of bail for a  
9 defendant, including a proceeding under this chapter or Article  
10 15.17, must be open to the public.

11 (b) A magistrate may satisfy the requirements of this  
12 article by ordering that the proceeding be broadcast by closed  
13 circuit equipment to a location that is reasonably close to the  
14 proceeding.

15 (c) A broadcast made under Subsection (b) must be recorded  
16 by the magistrate and the recording maintained for a period of not  
17 less than one year.

18 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to a hearing or proceeding  
19 that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.