

By: Bailes

H.B. No. 657

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to Internet posting of notice by governmental entities and
3 representatives as an alternative to newspaper publication of
4 notice.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 2051, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 2051.054 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 2051.054. INTERNET PUBLICATION AUTHORIZED IN CERTAIN
9 CIRCUMSTANCES. (a) Notwithstanding any other law and except as
10 provided by Section 2051.042(b), a governmental entity or
11 representative may, as an alternative, satisfy a requirement to
12 provide notice by publication in a newspaper by posting the notice
13 on a third-party Internet website.

14 (b) A governmental entity or representative may publish a
15 notice on a third-party Internet website under this section only
16 if:

17 (1) the governing body of the governmental entity
18 finds, after holding a public hearing on the matter, that:

19 (A) Internet publication of notices is in the
20 public interest;

21 (B) Internet publication of notices will not,
22 after consideration of the level of Internet access in the
23 applicable area, unreasonably restrict public access to the
24 notices; and

1 (C) the cost of publishing the notices in a
2 newspaper exceeds the cost of Internet publication;

3 (2) the governmental entity or representative posts
4 the governing body's findings on the entity's or representative's
5 Internet website; and

6 (3) the governmental entity or representative also
7 prominently posts each notice for public review at the office
8 location of the governmental entity or representative that is the
9 most accessible to the intended recipients of the notice.

10 (c) A notice posted under this section must, to the extent
11 possible, meet the time, content, appearance, and other
12 requirements provided by law for the posting of the notice.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.