

By: Bell of Kaufman

H.B. No. 3881

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to board of directors meeting locations of certain rural area water districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 49.062, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (b-1) and adding Subsections (b-2) and (b-3) to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-2) [~~(b-1)~~], the board shall designate one or more places inside or outside the district for conducting the meetings of the board. The meeting place may be a private residence or office, provided that the board, in its order establishing the meeting place, declares the same to be a public place and invites the public to attend any meeting of the board. If the board establishes a meeting place or places outside the district, it shall give notice of the location or locations by filing a true copy of the resolution establishing the location or locations of the meeting place or places and a justification of why the meeting will not be held in the district or within 10 miles of the boundary of the district, if applicable, with the commission and also by publishing notice of the location or locations in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. If the location of any of the meeting places outside the district is changed, notice of the change shall be given in the same manner.

(b-1) In Subsections (b-2) and (b-3) [~~this subsection~~],

"rural area district" means a district in which more than half of the district's projected retail water or sewer connections are active and that is:

(1) not wholly or partly located in a county that as of the 2020 ~~[2010]~~ Census:

(A) had a population of 800,000 or more; or

(B) bordered a county with a population of 800,000 or more; or

(2) wholly or partly located in a county with a population of more than 144,000 and less than 148,000.

(b-2) Except as provided by Subsection (b-3), if ~~[If]~~ the board of a rural area district conducts meetings at least quarterly, the board shall conduct a meeting at a designated meeting location inside the district or within 10 miles of the boundary of the district at least once per quarter. If the board determines that it is not practical to meet within 10 miles of the boundary of the district, the district may conduct the quarterly meeting at another designated meeting place in the county in which the district is located.

(b-3) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, and except as provided by this subsection, a rural area district described by Subsection (b-1)(2) may satisfy the requirements of Subsection (b-2) by conducting quarterly meetings by telephone conference call or videoconference call. A meeting to discuss the tax rate of the district must be conducted in person.

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