

By: Garcia

H.B. No. 4357

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the persons who must be physically present for certain remote meetings under the open meetings law.

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

SECTION 1. Section 551.127, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c) and (e) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(c) A meeting of a state governmental body or a governmental body that extends into three or more counties may be held by videoconference call only if the member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting or the member's designee is physically present at one location of the meeting that is open to the public during the open portions of the meeting.

(e) The notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference call must specify as a location of the meeting the location where a quorum of the governmental body will be physically present and specify the intent to have a quorum present at that location.

(e-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (e), ~~[except that]~~ the notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference call under Subsection (c) must specify as a location of the meeting the location where the member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting or the member's designee will be physically present and specify the intent to have that person ~~[the member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting]~~ present at that

1 location. The location [~~where the member of the governmental body~~
2 ~~presiding over the meeting is physically present~~] shall be open to
3 the public during the open portions of the meeting.

4 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
5 an open meeting held on or after the effective date of this Act. An
6 open meeting that is held before the effective date of this Act is
7 governed by the law in effect on the date of the open meeting, and
8 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.