

By: Tepper, Zwiener, Isaac

H.B. No. 638

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a requirement that certain water districts make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet.

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

SECTION 1. Section 551.128, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b-1) and adding Subsection (b-7) to read as follows:

(b-1) A transit authority or department subject to Chapter 451, 452, 453, or 460, Transportation Code, a district subject to Chapter 36, 49, or 60, Water Code, all or part of which is located in a county with a population of 125,000 or more, an elected school district board of trustees for a school district that has a student enrollment of 10,000 or more, an elected governing body of a home-rule municipality that has a population of 50,000 or more, or a county commissioners court for a county that has a population of 125,000 or more shall:

(1) make a video and audio recording of reasonable quality of each:

(A) regularly scheduled open meeting that is not a work session or a special called meeting; and

(B) open meeting that is a work session or special called meeting if:

(i) the governmental body is an elected school district board of trustees for a school district that has a

1 student enrollment of 10,000 or more; and

2 (ii) at the work session or special called
3 meeting, the board of trustees votes on any matter or allows public
4 comment or testimony; and

5 (2) make available an archived copy of the video and
6 audio recording of each meeting described by Subdivision (1) on the
7 Internet.

8 (b-7) A district subject to Chapter 36, 49, or 60, Water
9 Code, no part of which is located in a county with a population of
10 125,000 or more, shall:

11 (1) make an audio recording of reasonable quality of
12 each regularly scheduled open meeting that is not a work session or
13 a special called meeting; and

14 (2) make available an archived copy of the audio
15 recording of each meeting described by Subdivision (1) on the
16 Internet in the manner required by Subsections (b-3) and (b-4).

17 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
18 an open meeting held on or after the effective date of this Act. An
19 open meeting that is held before the effective date of this Act is
20 governed by the law in effect on the date of the open meeting, and
21 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.