

By: Howard, Bhojani, Capriglione

H.B. No. 1442

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Internet broadcast or recording of certain open meetings.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 551, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 551.024 and 551.025 to read as follows:

Sec. 551.024. INTERNET BROADCAST AND ARCHIVE OF OPEN MEETINGS. (a) This section applies only to a governmental body that is an agency within the executive branch of state government:

(1) to which the total appropriation made in the General Appropriations Act from general revenue as specified in the method of financing for any fiscal year beginning on or after September 1, 2025, including any amount of general revenue transferred to the governmental body under that Act for that fiscal year, is greater than \$10 million; and

(2) for which the bill pattern for the General Appropriations Act for the same fiscal year designates 100 or more full-time equivalent positions.

(b) A governmental body that becomes subject to this section under Subsection (a) for a fiscal year shall comply with this section in each following fiscal year.

(c) A governmental body subject to this section shall broadcast over the Internet live video and audio of each open meeting of the governmental body. The governmental body shall

1 provide access to the broadcast on the governmental body's Internet
2 website.

3 (d) Not later than the seventh day after the date an open
4 meeting is broadcast under this section, the governmental body
5 shall make available through the governmental body's Internet
6 website archived video and audio of the open meeting. The
7 governmental body shall maintain the archived video and audio of
8 the open meeting on the governmental body's Internet website until
9 the second anniversary of the date the archived video and audio was
10 first made available on the website.

11 (e) The governmental body shall provide on the governmental
12 body's Internet website the same notice of the open meeting that the
13 governmental body is required to post under Subchapter C. The
14 notice must be posted on the governmental body's Internet website
15 within the time required for posting notice under Subchapter C.

16 (f) The governmental body may use for an Internet broadcast
17 of an open meeting of the governmental body a room made available to
18 the governmental body on request in any state building, as defined
19 by Section [2165.301](#).

20 (g) The governmental body is exempt from the requirements of
21 this section to the extent a catastrophe, as defined by Section
22 [551.0411](#), or a technical breakdown prevents the governmental body
23 from complying with this section. Following the catastrophe or
24 technical breakdown, the governmental body shall make all
25 reasonable efforts to make the required video and audio of the open
26 meeting available in a timely manner.

27 (h) The governmental body shall consider contracting

1 through competitive bidding with a private individual or entity to
2 broadcast and archive an open meeting subject to this section to
3 minimize the cost of complying with this section.

4 Sec. 551.025. INTERNET ACCESS TO RECORDING OF OPEN MEETING.

5 (a) This section applies only to a governmental body that is an
6 agency within:

7 (1) the legislative branch of the state government; or

8 (2) the executive branch of the state government to
9 which Section 551.024 does not apply.

10 (b) Not later than the seventh day after the date an open
11 meeting is held, a governmental body subject to this section shall
12 make available through the governmental body's Internet website or
13 a social media account associated with the governmental body:

14 (1) an audio recording of the open meeting; or

15 (2) a video and audio recording of the open meeting.

16 (c) The governmental body shall provide on the governmental
17 body's Internet website or a social media account associated with
18 the governmental body the same notice of the open meeting that the
19 governmental body is required to post under Subchapter C. The
20 notice must be posted on the governmental body's Internet website
21 or a social media account associated with the governmental body
22 within the time required for posting notice under Subchapter C.

23 (d) The governmental body is exempt from the requirements of
24 this section to the extent a catastrophe, as defined by Section
25 551.0411, or a technical breakdown prevents the governmental body
26 from complying with this section. Following the catastrophe or
27 technical breakdown, the governmental body shall make all

1 reasonable efforts to make the required recording of the open
2 meeting available in a timely manner.

3 (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), this section does not
4 apply to a commodity producers board created under Chapter [41](#),
5 Agriculture Code. This subsection expires September 1, 2030.

6 SECTION 2. Sections 551.024 and 551.025, Government Code,
7 as added by this Act, apply only to an open meeting held on or after
8 September 1, 2027.

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