

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 710

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the establishment and use of a written electronic  
3 communications system accessible to the public by certain municipal  
4 entities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 551.006(b), Government Code, is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 (b) Except as provided by Section 551.0061, a [A]  
9 governmental body may have no more than one online message board or  
10 similar Internet application to be used for the purposes described  
11 in Subsection (a). The online message board or similar Internet  
12 application must be owned or controlled by the governmental body,  
13 prominently displayed on the governmental body's primary Internet  
14 web page, and no more than one click away from the governmental  
15 body's primary Internet web page.

16 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 551, Government Code, is  
17 amended by adding Section 551.0061 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 551.0061. WRITTEN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS  
19 ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL ENTITIES. (a) The  
20 governing body of a municipality by ordinance or resolution may  
21 authorize a commission or other entity organized under Subchapter  
22 A, Chapter 211, Local Government Code, to establish and use an  
23 online message board or similar Internet application for the  
24 purposes described in Section 551.006(a).

1       (b) A governing body adopting an ordinance or resolution  
2 under this section may authorize use of the online message board or  
3 similar Internet application for a period of not longer than two  
4 years, and may reauthorize use of the message board or application  
5 in the same manner and for the same period as many times as the  
6 governing body determines is appropriate. The governing body may  
7 rescind an ordinance or resolution adopted under this section at  
8 any time.

9       (c) An online message board or similar Internet application  
10 authorized by this section is separate from and in addition to a  
11 municipal online message board or similar Internet application  
12 authorized by Section [551.006](#).

13       (d) The use and administration of an online message board or  
14 similar Internet application authorized by this section must comply  
15 with the requirements of Section [551.006](#).

16       (e) A municipal governing body that authorizes use of an  
17 online message board or similar Internet application under this  
18 section shall require a municipal employee to monitor the message  
19 board or application for compliance with this section and Section  
20 [551.006](#).

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