

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 1504

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to meetings of the board of directors of the Gulf Coast
3 Authority.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 2.07, Chapter 409, Acts of the 61st
6 Legislature, Regular Session, 1969, is amended by amending
7 Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) The board shall meet regularly as necessary [~~at least~~
10 ~~once each month, and may meet at any other time provided in its~~
11 ~~bylaws~~].

12 (d) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, Chapter
13 49, Water Code, or any other law, the board may hold an open or
14 closed meeting by telephone conference call, videoconference, or
15 other similar telecommunication method. The board may use a
16 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
17 telecommunication method for purposes of establishing a quorum, for
18 voting, or for any other meeting purpose.

19 (e) A meeting held by telephone conference call,
20 videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method is
21 subject to the notice requirements applicable to other board
22 meetings.

23 (f) The notice of a meeting to be held by telephone
24 conference call, videoconference, or other similar

1 telecommunication method must include:

2 (1) a toll-free telephone number that members of the
3 public may use to hear and, if applicable, speak at the meeting;

4 (2) free-of-charge access information for any
5 audiovisual or audio-only feeds; and

6 (3) instructions for a member of the public to speak at
7 the meeting from a remote location.

8 (g) If the board prepares an agenda packet or other
9 materials that would have been distributed to members of the public
10 at a face-to-face meeting, the board shall make the packet or other
11 materials available electronically.

12 (h) A meeting held by telephone conference call,
13 videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method shall
14 be recorded. The recording shall be made available to the public.
15 The board shall maintain a copy of the recording for at least one
16 year after the date of the hearing.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.