

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2381  
By: Hegar (Ellis)  
State Affairs  
5/19/2005  
Committee Report (Amended)

### **AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Chapter 551, Government Code, also known as Texas Open Meetings Act, provides that meetings of governmental bodies must be open to the public, except for expressly authorized executive sessions. H.B. 2381 permits counties to utilize the Internet as an option in addition to traditional courthouse postings for notices regarding public meetings of a county or water district.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 551.043, Government Code, as follows:

- (a) Creates this subsection from existing text.
- (b) Sets forth certain guidelines for governmental bodies if this chapter specifically requires or allows a governmental body to post notice of a meeting on the Internet.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 551.049, Government Code, to authorize a county governmental body to post notice of each meeting on the county's official Internet website.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 551.053, Government Code, as follows:

- (a) Authorizes the governing body of a water district or other district or political subdivision that extends into four or more counties to post notice of each meeting on the official Internet website of the district or political subdivision. Makes nonsubstantive and conforming changes.
- (b) Makes a conforming change.
- (c) Authorizes a county clerk to post certain notices on the county's official Internet website. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 551.054, Government Code, as follows:

- (a) Authorizes the governing body of a water district or other district or political subdivision that extends into fewer than four counties to post notice of each meeting on the official Internet website of the district or political subdivision. Makes nonsubstantive and conforming changes.
- (b) Makes a conforming change.
- (c) Authorizes a county clerk to post certain notices on the county's official Internet website. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 5. Effective date: September 1, 2005.

## **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

### **Committee Amendment No. 1**

Amends H.B. 2381 by striking Section 2, 3, and 4 and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly.