

CHAPTER 459

S.B. No. 916

1 AN ACT
2 relating to quorums and meetings by teleconference of the Texas
3 Bioenergy Policy Council and the Texas Bioenergy Research
4 Committee.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subsection (e), Section 50D.011, Agriculture
7 Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 (e) Subject to Section 50D.017, the [The] policy council is
9 subject to Chapters 551 and 2001, Government Code.

10 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 50D, Agriculture Code, is
11 amended by adding Sections 50D.016 and 50D.017 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 50D.016. QUORUM. A quorum of the policy council
13 consists of not less than half of the members of the policy council.
14 A member who participates in a meeting by telephone conference
15 call, videoconference, or other similar telecommunication method
16 may be counted to establish a quorum.

17 Sec. 50D.017. MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

18 (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any other
19 law, the policy council may hold an open or closed meeting by
20 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
21 telecommunication method if:

22 (1) notice is given for the meeting as for other
23 meetings;

24 (2) the notice specifies a location for the meeting at

27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100

1 which the public may attend;

2 (3) each part of the meeting that is required to be
3 open to the public is audible to the public at the location
4 specified in the notice of the meeting; and

5 (4) the meeting is recorded by electronic or other
6 means and the recording of each portion of the meeting that is
7 required to be open to the public is made available to the public.

8 (b) A member of the policy council may participate by
9 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
10 telecommunication method in a policy council meeting at which other
11 members are physically present and may vote.

12 SECTION 3. Subsection (e), Section 50D.021, Agriculture
13 Code, is amended to read as follows:

14 (e) Subject to Section 50D.026, [The] research committee is
15 subject to Chapters 551 and 2001, Government Code.

16 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 50D, Agriculture Code, is
17 amended by adding Sections 50D.025 and 50D.026 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 50D.025. QUORUM. A quorum of the research committee
19 consists of not less than half of the members of the research
20 committee. A member who participates in a meeting by telephone
21 conference call, videoconference, or other similar
22 telecommunication method may be counted to establish a quorum.

23 Sec. 50D.026. MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE.

24 (a) Notwithstanding Chapter 551, Government Code, or any other
25 law, the research committee may hold an open or closed meeting by
26 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
27 telecommunication method if:

2
2011

1 (1) notice is given for the meeting as for other
2 meetings;

3 (2) the notice specifies a location for the meeting at
4 which the public may attend;

5 (3) each part of the meeting that is required to be
6 open to the public is audible to the public at the location
7 specified in the notice of the meeting; and

8 (4) the meeting is recorded by electronic or other
9 means and the recording of each portion of the meeting that is
10 required to be open to the public is made available to the public.

11 (b) A member of the research committee may participate by
12 telephone conference call, videoconference, or other similar
13 telecommunication method in a research committee meeting at which
14 other members are physically present and may vote.

15 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

S.B. No. 916

David Newburn
President of the Senate

Joe Straus
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 916 passed the Senate on March 27, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0. _____

Patsey Saw
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 916 passed the House on May 17, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 134, Nays 0, two present not voting. _____

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

14 JUNE '13
Date

RICK PERRY
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
10:11 O'CLOCK

JUN 14 2013

[Signature]
Secretary of State