Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subsections (c), (e), (f), and (h), Section 551.127, Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) A meeting of a state governmental body or a governmental body that extends into three or more counties may be held by videoconference call only if the member [a majority of the quorum] of the governmental body presiding over the meeting is physically present at one location of the meeting that is open to the public during the open portions of the meeting.

(e) The notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference call must specify as a location of the meeting the location where a quorum of the governmental body will be physically present and specify the intent to have a quorum present at that location, except that the notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference call under Subsection (c) must specify as a location of the meeting the location where the member [a majority of the quorum] of the governmental body presiding over the meeting will be physically present and specify the intent to have the member [a majority of the quorum] of the governmental body presiding over the meeting present at that location. The location where the member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting is physically present [in addition, the notice of the meeting must specify as a location each other location where a member of the governmental body who will participate in the meeting will be physically present during the meeting]. Each of the locations shall be open to the public during the open portions of the meeting.

(f) Each portion of a meeting held by videoconference call that is required to be open to the public shall be visible and audible to the public at the location specified under Subsection (e). If a problem occurs that causes a meeting to no longer be visible and audible to the public at that location, the meeting must be recessed until the problem is resolved. If the problem is not resolved in six hours or less, the meeting must be adjourned.

(h) The location specified under Subsection (e), and each remote location from which a member of the governmental body participates, shall have two-way communication with each other location during the entire meeting. The face of each participant in the videoconference call, while that participant is speaking, shall be clearly visible, and the voice audible, to each other participant and, during the open portion of the meeting, to the members of the public in attendance at a location of the meeting.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on April 23, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 8, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved May 24, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.