



House Bill 2840 – Public Comment at Board Meetings

The Texas Legislature passed House Bill 2840 this past session, adding requirements relating to public comment to the Texas Open Meetings Act. Effective September 1, 2019, each member of the public who desires to address the Board regarding an item on the agenda must be permitted to do so before or during the Board’s consideration of the agenda item.

The following rules shall apply in order to comply with House Bill 2840:

1. At all meetings, including regular, called, and workshop meetings, the Board shall hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board on agenda items. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign-in before the meeting begins and shall indicate the agenda item about which they wish to speak.
2. At regular meetings, the Board shall also allot approximately 30 minutes to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board on non-agenda items. Persons who wish to participate in this portion of the meeting shall sign-in before the meeting begins and shall indicate the topic about which they wish to speak.
3. No participant shall be allotted more than five minutes total in any meeting (including public comment on agenda and non-agenda items), and participants’ time may be further limited in the sole discretion of the Board President in the interests of time and efficiency.