

1-1 By: Eckhardt S.B. No. 710
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 6, 2025; February 7, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce;
1-4 February 12, 2025, re-referred to Committee on Local Government;
1-5 March 24, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-6 Nays 0; March 24, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	Bettencourt	X		
1-10	Middleton	X		
1-11	Cook	X		
1-12	Gutierrez	X		
1-13	Nichols	X		
1-14	Paxton	X		
1-15	West	X		

1-16 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-17 AN ACT

1-18 relating to the establishment and use of a written electronic
1-19 communications system accessible to the public by certain municipal
1-20 entities.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 551.006(b), Government Code, is amended
1-23 to read as follows:

1-24 (b) Except as provided by Section 551.0061, a [A]
1-25 governmental body may have no more than one online message board or
1-26 similar Internet application to be used for the purposes described
1-27 in Subsection (a). The online message board or similar Internet
1-28 application must be owned or controlled by the governmental body,
1-29 prominently displayed on the governmental body's primary Internet
1-30 web page, and no more than one click away from the governmental
1-31 body's primary Internet web page.

1-32 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 551, Government Code, is
1-33 amended by adding Section 551.0061 to read as follows:

1-34 Sec. 551.0061. WRITTEN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS
1-35 ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL ENTITIES. (a) The
1-36 governing body of a municipality by ordinance or resolution may
1-37 authorize a commission or other entity organized under Subchapter
1-38 A, Chapter 211, Local Government Code, to establish and use an
1-39 online message board or similar Internet application for the
1-40 purposes described in Section 551.006(a).

1-41 (b) A governing body adopting an ordinance or resolution
1-42 under this section may authorize use of the online message board or
1-43 similar Internet application for a period of not longer than two
1-44 years, and may reauthorize use of the message board or application
1-45 in the same manner and for the same period as many times as the
1-46 governing body determines is appropriate. The governing body may
1-47 rescind an ordinance or resolution adopted under this section at
1-48 any time.

1-49 (c) An online message board or similar Internet application
1-50 authorized by this section is separate from and in addition to a
1-51 municipal online message board or similar Internet application
1-52 authorized by Section 551.006.

1-53 (d) The use and administration of an online message board or
1-54 similar Internet application authorized by this section must comply
1-55 with the requirements of Section 551.006.

1-56 (e) A municipal governing body that authorizes use of an
1-57 online message board or similar Internet application under this
1-58 section shall require a municipal employee to monitor the message
1-59 board or application for compliance with this section and Section
1-60 551.006.

1-61 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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