

# Addressing Open Government Practices with Technology Solutions

Martin H. Zelinsky

Texas Department of Information Resources

1

## Agenda Topics

- Traditional Open Government
  - Open Meetings
  - Open Records
- Developing Issues
  - Automation / voice recognition
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Blockchain technology

2

## Open Meetings

- 2013 Legislative Session
  - House Bill 2414
  - Senate Bill 984
  - See Texas Gov't Code Sec. 551.127
- Allows videoconferencing of open meetings, including counting for quorum, with certain restrictions
- **Note:** House and Senate bills are not identical

3

## Open Meetings

- 2017 Legislative Session
  - House Bill 3047 amends Sec. 551.127.

(a-3) A member of a governmental body who participates in a meeting by videoconference call shall be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which audio or video communication with the member is lost or disconnected. The governmental body may continue the meeting only if a quorum of the body remains present at the meeting location or, if applicable, continues to participate in a meeting conducted under Subsection (c).

4

## Open Records

- 2017 Legislative Session
  - Senate Bill 79

*(b-1) In addition to the methods of production described by Subsection (b), an officer for public information for a governmental body [political subdivision of this state] complies with Subsection (a) **by referring a requestor to an exact Internet location or uniform resource locator (URL) address on a website maintained by the governmental body [political subdivision] and accessible to the public if the requested information is identifiable and readily available on that website.** If the person requesting the information prefers a manner other than access through the URL, the governmental body [political subdivision] must supply the information in the manner required by Subsection (b).*

5

## Open Records

- Open Records software tools
  - Storage and retrieval
  - Process software

6

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](http://utcle.org/elibrary)

## Title search: Addressing Open Government Practices with Technology Solutions

Also available as part of the eCourse

[2017 Advanced Texas Administrative Law eConference](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
12<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Texas Administrative Law Seminar session  
"Addressing Open Government Practices with Technology Solutions"