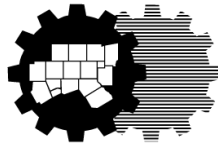


Attorney General Announces Open Meetings Act Provisions Subject to Temporary Suspension

Ken Kirkpatrick, Counsel for Transportation

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North Central Texas
Council of Governments

Background

Governor Abbott Declared State of Disaster for the State of Texas Related to COVID-19 on March 13, 2020, pursuant to Texas Government Code 418.014

Texas Government Code Section 418.016 permits the Governor to suspend certain statutes upon a Declaration of Disaster

The Attorney General requested the Governor to suspend certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act related to governing bodies conducting meetings by telephone or videoconference

The Attorney General announced the suspended provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act on March 16, 2020

Open Meetings Act Flexibility

Certain provisions were temporarily suspended, to the extent necessary, to allow telephonic or videoconference meetings to maintain social distancing

The following categories of provisions were suspended:

1. those that require a quorum or presiding officer to be physically present
2. those that require a physical posting of the agenda provided that the agenda be posted on-line with a toll-free call-in number or free videoconference link to permit public participation
3. relaxed provisions to allow for two-way audio communication in lieu of two-way audio and video
4. those that are interpreted to require face-to-face interactions between the members of the public and public officials