

# HB 2840 Update

July, 2019

# HB 2840

- Effective September 1, 2019
- Applies to governmental bodies within section 551.001 of Texas Government Code
  - Includes MPO Policy Boards
- Requires opportunity for public testimony for all agenda items
  - Required even if there is no action scheduled
  - Hearing of visitors may suffice
    - Policy Board cannot respond to comments not on the posted agenda

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- Use of Non-English translators for public testimony
  - New requirement does not apply if using simultaneous translation equipment
  - If testimony time is limited, those requiring translators must be given twice the time given to others
    - Includes sign language

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- Criticism of Policy Board
  - A governmental body may not prohibit public criticism of the governmental body, including criticism of any act, omission, policy, procedure, program, or service