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## **State Sen. José Rodríguez appointed to Joint Committee to review public notice requirements**

**El Paso** - Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick appointed Sen. José Rodríguez to the Joint Interim Committee to Study the Issue of Advertising Public Notices. This committee will review and make recommendations on the most efficient and transparent method to provide notice of vital information to Texans. The other Senate members of the committee are Sen. Konni Burton, Sen. Kirk Watson, Sen. Kelly Hancock, and Sen. Charles Perry.

Given rapid technological advances in recent years, there have been efforts to replace public notices published in newspapers with those posted on governmental entities' websites. Proponents of efforts to allow publication of public notice on the Internet cite benefits of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. However, as stated in the text of H.C.R. 96, which created the committee, "abundant testimony against these measures in past public hearings has cited statistics that public notice placed on the Internet would not reach a large number of Texans, demonstrated problems with archiving Internet notices, raised questions about removing oversight and reducing transparency, and questioned the cost-effectiveness of posting notices on the Internet or through social media."

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve on this committee," Rodríguez said. "A free press is crucial to our way of life. I will work to ensure that transparency and government accountability are balanced with government efficiency in a manner that best serves all Texans."

The Senator has passed legislation that promotes the availability of public information and government accountability - such as H.B. 584 (83R) and H.B. 1487 (83R) - as well as legislation that allows for more efficient use of limited government resources - such as S.B. 457 (83R) and S.B. 458 (83R).

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*José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.*