

March 15, 2001

Mr. President:

Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 241, as amended

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS, amended as follows:

1. Strike Senate Public Affairs Committee Amendments 4 and 5.
2. On pages 2 through 4, strike Subsections A through H in their entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following subsections:

"A. Any action seeking money damages against a person for conduct or speech undertaken or made in connection with a public hearing or public meeting in a quasi-judicial proceeding before a tribunal or decision-making body of any political subdivision of the state is subject to a special motion to dismiss, motion for judgment on the pleadings, or motion for summary judgment that shall be considered by the court on a priority or expedited basis to ensure the early consideration of the issues raised by the motion and to prevent the unnecessary expense of litigation.

B. If the rights afforded by this section are raised as an affirmative defense and if a court grants a motion to dismiss, a motion for judgment on the pleadings or a motion for summary judgment filed within ninety days of the filing of the moving party's answer, the court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred by the moving party in defending the action. If the court finds that a special motion to dismiss or motion for summary judgment is frivolous or solely intended to cause unnecessary delay, the court shall award costs and reasonable attorney fees to the party prevailing on the motion.

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C. Any party shall have the right to an expedited appeal from a trial court order on the special motions described in Subsection B of this section or from a trial court's failure to rule on the motion on an expedited basis.

D. As used in this section, a "public meeting in a quasi-judicial proceeding" means and includes any meeting established and held by a state or local governmental entity, including without limitations, meetings or presentations before state, city, town or village councils, planning commissions, review boards or commissions. "

3. Reletter the succeeding subsections accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Sanchez, Chairman

Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____
(Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 6 For 0 Against
Yes: 6
No: 0
Excused: Feldman, Komadina, Lopez, Martinez
Absent: None

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