

By: Meyer

H.B. No. 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to providing property tax relief through the public school finance system and property tax appraisal and administration.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

ARTICLE 1. SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1.01. This Act may be cited as the Property Tax Relief Act.

ARTICLE 2. SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATE COMPRESSION

SECTION 2.01. Subchapter F, Chapter 48, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 48.2555 to read as follows:

Sec. 48.2555. MAXIMUM COMPRESSED TAX RATE FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title or Chapter 26, Tax Code, for the 2023-2024 school year, the commissioner shall calculate the value of a school district's maximum compressed tax rate by determining the district's maximum compressed rate under Section 48.2551 or 48.2552(b), if applicable, and reducing the tax rate determined under the applicable section by \$0.15.

(b) If a school district's maximum compressed tax rate as calculated under Subsection (a) would be less than 90 percent of another school district's maximum compressed tax rate under Subsection (a), the district's maximum compressed tax rate is the value at which the district's maximum compressed tax rate would be equal to 90 percent of the other district's maximum compressed tax

1 rate.

2 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title or
3 Chapter 26, Tax Code, for purposes of determining funding for
4 school districts for the 2023-2024 school year, a reference in any
5 of the following provisions of law to a school district's maximum
6 compressed tax rate or maximum compressed rate as determined under
7 Section 48.2551 means the maximum compressed tax rate determined
8 for the district under this section:

9 (1) Section 13.054(f);

10 (2) Section 45.003(d);

11 (3) Section 45.0032(a);

12 (4) Section 48.051(a);

13 (5) Sections 48.2553(a) and (e); and

14 (6) Section 26.08(n), Tax Code.

15 (d) For purposes of Section 30.003(f-1), a reference in that
16 section to Section 48.2551 includes this section.

17 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, for
18 purposes of determining a school district's maximum compressed tax
19 rate under Section 48.2551 for the 2024-2025 school year, the value
20 of the district's "PYMCR" is the maximum compressed tax rate
21 determined for the district under this section for the preceding
22 school year.

23 (f) This section expires September 1, 2025.

24 ARTICLE 3. ESCROW ACCOUNTS

25 SECTION 3.01. Section 31.072(a), Tax Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 (a) At the request of a property owner, the ~~The~~ collector

1 for a taxing unit shall [~~may~~] enter a contract with the [~~a~~] property
2 owner under which the property owner deposits money in an escrow
3 account maintained by the collector to provide for the payment of
4 property taxes collected by the collector on any property the
5 person owns.

6 SECTION 3.02. Sections 31.072(h) and (i), Tax Code, are
7 repealed.

8 SECTION 3.03. This article applies only to a tax year that
9 begins on or after the effective date of this article.

10 ARTICLE 4. LIMITATION ON INCREASES IN VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY

11 SECTION 4.01. Section 1.12(d), Tax Code, is amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (d) For purposes of this section, the appraisal ratio of
14 real property [~~a homestead~~] to which Section 23.23 applies is the
15 ratio of the property's market value as determined by the appraisal
16 district or appraisal review board, as applicable, to the market
17 value of the property according to law. The appraisal ratio is not
18 calculated according to the appraised value of the property as
19 limited by Section 23.23.

20 SECTION 4.02. The heading to Section 23.23, Tax Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 23.23. LIMITATION ON APPRAISED VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY
23 [~~RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD~~].

24 SECTION 4.03. Section 23.23, Tax Code, is amended by
25 amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) and adding Subsections
26 (c-2), (c-3), and (c-4) to read as follows:

27 (a) Notwithstanding the requirements of Section 25.18 and

1 regardless of whether the appraisal office has appraised the
2 property and determined the market value of the property for the tax
3 year, an appraisal office may increase the appraised value of real
4 property [~~a residence homestead~~] for a tax year to an amount not to
5 exceed the lesser of:

6 (1) the market value of the property for the most
7 recent tax year that the market value was determined by the
8 appraisal office; or

9 (2) the sum of:

10 (A) five [~~10~~] percent of the appraised value of
11 the property for the preceding tax year;

12 (B) the appraised value of the property for the
13 preceding tax year; and

14 (C) the market value of all new improvements to
15 the property.

16 (b) When appraising real property [~~a residence homestead~~],
17 the chief appraiser shall:

18 (1) appraise the property at its market value; and

19 (2) include in the appraisal records both the market
20 value of the property and the amount computed under Subsection
21 (a)(2).

22 (c) The limitation provided by Subsection (a) takes effect
23 on January 1 of the tax year following the first tax year in which
24 the owner owns the property on January 1 [~~as to a residence~~
25 ~~homestead on January 1 of the tax year following the first tax year~~
26 ~~the owner qualifies the property for an exemption under Section~~
27 ~~11.13~~]. Except as provided by Subsection (c-2) or (c-3), the [~~The~~

1 limitation expires on January 1 of the first tax year following the
2 year in which [~~that neither~~] the owner of the property ceases to own
3 the property.

4 (c-2) If property subject to a limitation under this section
5 qualifies for an exemption under Section 11.13 when the ownership
6 of the property is transferred to the owner's spouse or surviving
7 spouse, the limitation expires on January 1 of the first tax year
8 following the year in which [~~when the limitation took effect nor~~]
9 the owner's spouse or surviving spouse ceases to own the property,
10 unless the limitation is further continued under this subsection on
11 the subsequent transfer to a spouse or surviving spouse [~~qualifies~~
12 ~~for an exemption under Section 11.13~~].

13 (c-3) If property subject to a limitation under Subsection
14 (a), other than a residence homestead, is owned by two or more
15 persons, the limitation expires on January 1 of the first tax year
16 following the year in which the ownership of at least a 50 percent
17 interest in the property is sold or otherwise transferred.

18 (c-4) For purposes of applying the limitation provided by
19 this section, a person who acquired real property in a tax year
20 before the 2023 tax year, other than property that qualified as the
21 residence homestead of the person under Section 11.13 in the 2023
22 tax year, is considered to have acquired the property on January 1,
23 2023.

24 (e) In this section, "new improvement" means an improvement
25 to real property [~~a residence homestead~~] made after the most recent
26 appraisal of the property that increases the market value of the
27 property and the value of which is not included in the appraised

1 value of the property for the preceding tax year. The term does not
2 include repairs to or ordinary maintenance of an existing structure
3 or the grounds or another feature of the property.

4 SECTION 4.04. Section 42.26(d), Tax Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (d) For purposes of this section, the value of the property
7 subject to the suit and the value of a comparable property or sample
8 property that is used for comparison must be the market value
9 determined by the appraisal district when the property is [~~a~~
10 ~~residence homestead~~] subject to the limitation on appraised value
11 imposed by Section 23.23.

12 SECTION 4.05. Sections 403.302(d) and (i), Government Code,
13 are amended to read as follows:

14 (d) For the purposes of this section, "taxable value" means
15 the market value of all taxable property less:

16 (1) the total dollar amount of any residence homestead
17 exemptions lawfully granted under Section 11.13(b) or (c), Tax
18 Code, in the year that is the subject of the study for each school
19 district;

20 (2) one-half of the total dollar amount of any
21 residence homestead exemptions granted under Section 11.13(n), Tax
22 Code, in the year that is the subject of the study for each school
23 district;

24 (3) the total dollar amount of any exemptions granted
25 before May 31, 1993, within a reinvestment zone under agreements
26 authorized by Chapter 312, Tax Code;

27 (4) subject to Subsection (e), the total dollar amount

1 of any captured appraised value of property that:

2 (A) is within a reinvestment zone created on or
3 before May 31, 1999, or is proposed to be included within the
4 boundaries of a reinvestment zone as the boundaries of the zone and
5 the proposed portion of tax increment paid into the tax increment
6 fund by a school district are described in a written notification
7 provided by the municipality or the board of directors of the zone
8 to the governing bodies of the other taxing units in the manner
9 provided by former Section 311.003(e), Tax Code, before May 31,
10 1999, and within the boundaries of the zone as those boundaries
11 existed on September 1, 1999, including subsequent improvements to
12 the property regardless of when made;

13 (B) generates taxes paid into a tax increment
14 fund created under Chapter 311, Tax Code, under a reinvestment zone
15 financing plan approved under Section 311.011(d), Tax Code, on or
16 before September 1, 1999; and

17 (C) is eligible for tax increment financing under
18 Chapter 311, Tax Code;

19 (5) the total dollar amount of any captured appraised
20 value of property that:

21 (A) is within a reinvestment zone:

22 (i) created on or before December 31, 2008,
23 by a municipality with a population of less than 18,000; and

24 (ii) the project plan for which includes
25 the alteration, remodeling, repair, or reconstruction of a
26 structure that is included on the National Register of Historic
27 Places and requires that a portion of the tax increment of the zone

1 be used for the improvement or construction of related facilities
2 or for affordable housing;

3 (B) generates school district taxes that are paid
4 into a tax increment fund created under Chapter 311, Tax Code; and

5 (C) is eligible for tax increment financing under
6 Chapter 311, Tax Code;

7 (6) the total dollar amount of any exemptions granted
8 under Section 11.251 or 11.253, Tax Code;

9 (7) the difference between the comptroller's estimate
10 of the market value and the productivity value of land that
11 qualifies for appraisal on the basis of its productive capacity,
12 except that the productivity value estimated by the comptroller may
13 not exceed the fair market value of the land;

14 (8) the portion of the appraised value of residence
15 homesteads of individuals who receive a tax limitation under
16 Section 11.26, Tax Code, on which school district taxes are not
17 imposed in the year that is the subject of the study, calculated as
18 if the residence homesteads were appraised at the full value
19 required by law;

20 (9) a portion of the market value of property not
21 otherwise fully taxable by the district at market value because of
22 action required by statute or the constitution of this state, other
23 than Section 11.311, Tax Code, that, if the tax rate adopted by the
24 district is applied to it, produces an amount equal to the
25 difference between the tax that the district would have imposed on
26 the property if the property were fully taxable at market value and
27 the tax that the district is actually authorized to impose on the

1 property, if this subsection does not otherwise require that
2 portion to be deducted;

3 (10) the market value of all tangible personal
4 property, other than manufactured homes, owned by a family or
5 individual and not held or used for the production of income;

6 (11) the appraised value of property the collection of
7 delinquent taxes on which is deferred under Section 33.06, Tax
8 Code;

9 (12) the portion of the appraised value of property
10 the collection of delinquent taxes on which is deferred under
11 Section 33.065, Tax Code;

12 (13) the amount by which the market value of real
13 property [~~a residence homestead~~] to which Section 23.23, Tax Code,
14 applies exceeds the appraised value of that property as calculated
15 under that section; and

16 (14) the total dollar amount of any exemptions granted
17 under Section 11.35, Tax Code.

18 (i) If the comptroller determines in the study that the
19 market value of property in a school district as determined by the
20 appraisal district that appraises property for the school district,
21 less the total of the amounts and values listed in Subsection (d) as
22 determined by that appraisal district, is valid, the comptroller,
23 in determining the taxable value of property in the school district
24 under Subsection (d), shall for purposes of Subsection (d)(13)
25 subtract from the market value as determined by the appraisal
26 district of properties [~~residence homesteads~~] to which Section
27 23.23, Tax Code, applies the amount by which that amount exceeds the

1 appraised value of those properties as calculated by the appraisal
2 district under Section 23.23, Tax Code. If the comptroller
3 determines in the study that the market value of property in a
4 school district as determined by the appraisal district that
5 appraises property for the school district, less the total of the
6 amounts and values listed in Subsection (d) as determined by that
7 appraisal district, is not valid, the comptroller, in determining
8 the taxable value of property in the school district under
9 Subsection (d), shall for purposes of Subsection (d)(13) subtract
10 from the market value as estimated by the comptroller of properties
11 [~~residence homesteads~~] to which Section 23.23, Tax Code, applies
12 the amount by which that amount exceeds the appraised value of those
13 properties as calculated by the appraisal district under Section
14 23.23, Tax Code.

15 SECTION 4.06. Section 23.23(c-1), Tax Code, is repealed.

16 SECTION 4.07. This article applies only to the appraisal
17 for ad valorem tax purposes of real property for a tax year that
18 begins on or after the effective date of this article.

19 ARTICLE 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

20 SECTION 5.01. Except as otherwise provided by this article,
21 this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

22 SECTION 5.02. Article 3 of this Act takes effect January 1,
23 2024.

24 SECTION 5.03. Article 4 of this Act takes effect January 1,
25 2024, but only if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 88th
26 Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, to authorize the legislature to
27 limit the maximum appraised value of real property for ad valorem

1 tax purposes and to except certain appropriations to pay for ad
2 valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate
3 of growth of appropriations is approved by the voters. If that
4 amendment is not approved by the voters, Article 4 of this Act has
5 no effect.