

By: Goldman

H.B. No. 481

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the establishment of a limitation on the total amount of  
3 ad valorem taxes that certain taxing units may impose on the  
4 residence homesteads of individuals who are disabled or elderly and  
5 their surviving spouses.

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

7 SECTION 1. The heading to Section [11.261](#), Tax Code, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 11.261. LIMITATION OF TAX IMPOSED BY TAXING UNIT OTHER  
10 THAN SCHOOL DISTRICT [~~COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, OR JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT~~  
11 ~~TAX~~] ON HOMESTEADS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DISABLED OR [~~AND~~]  
12 ELDERLY.

13 SECTION 2. Section [11.261](#), Tax Code, is amended by amending  
14 Subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k),  
15 and (l) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (b-2) to read as follows:

16 (a) This section applies only to a taxing unit other than a  
17 school district [~~county, municipality, or junior college district~~  
18 ~~that has established a limitation on the total amount of taxes that~~  
19 ~~may be imposed by the county, municipality, or junior college~~  
20 ~~district on the residence homestead of a disabled individual or an~~  
21 ~~individual 65 years of age or older under Section [1-b](#)(h), Article~~  
22 ~~VIII, Texas Constitution]~~.

23 (b) The tax officials shall appraise the property to which  
24 this section [~~the limitation~~] applies and calculate taxes as on

1 other property, but if the tax so calculated exceeds the limitation  
2 required [~~provided~~] by this section, the tax imposed by a taxing  
3 unit is the amount of the tax as limited by this section, except as  
4 otherwise provided by this section. A taxing unit [~~The county,~~  
5 ~~municipality, or junior college district~~] may not increase the  
6 total annual amount of ad valorem taxes the taxing unit [~~county,~~  
7 ~~municipality, or junior college district~~] imposes on the residence  
8 homestead of an individual who is [~~a~~] disabled [~~individual~~] or is  
9 [~~an individual~~] 65 years of age or older above the amount of the  
10 taxes the taxing unit [~~county, municipality, or junior college~~  
11 ~~district~~] imposed on the residence homestead in the first tax  
12 year[, ~~other than a tax year preceding the tax year in which the~~  
13 ~~county, municipality, or junior college district established the~~  
14 ~~limitation described by Subsection (a),~~] in which the individual  
15 qualified that residence homestead for the exemption provided by  
16 Section 11.13(c) for an individual who is [~~a~~] disabled [~~individual~~]  
17 or is [~~an individual~~] 65 years of age or older. If the individual  
18 qualified that residence homestead for the exemption after the  
19 beginning of that first year and the residence homestead remains  
20 eligible for the exemption for the next year, and if the [~~county,~~  
21 ~~municipal, or junior college district~~] taxes imposed by the taxing  
22 unit on the residence homestead in the next year are less than the  
23 amount of taxes imposed in that first year, the taxing unit [~~a~~  
24 ~~county, municipality, or junior college district~~] may not  
25 subsequently increase the total annual amount of ad valorem taxes  
26 it imposes on the residence homestead above the amount it imposed on  
27 the residence homestead in the year immediately following the first

1 year [~~, other than a tax year preceding the tax year in which the~~  
2 ~~county, municipality, or junior college district established the~~  
3 ~~limitation described by Subsection (a),~~] for which the individual  
4 qualified that residence homestead for the exemption.

5 (b-1) If the first tax year the individual qualified the  
6 residence homestead for the exemption provided by Section 11.13(c)  
7 for individuals who are disabled or are 65 years of age or older was  
8 a tax year before the 2024 tax year and the homestead qualified for  
9 a limitation on county, municipal, or junior college district taxes  
10 under this section for that tax year, the amount of the limitation  
11 on county, municipal, or junior college district taxes, as  
12 applicable, required by this section is the amount of the tax  
13 imposed by the applicable taxing unit for the 2023 tax year, plus  
14 any 2024 tax attributable to improvements made in 2023, other than  
15 improvements made to comply with governmental regulations or  
16 repairs.

17 (b-2) Except as provided by Subsection (b-1), for the  
18 purpose of calculating a limitation on tax increases by a taxing  
19 unit under this section, an individual who qualified a residence  
20 homestead before January 1, 2024, for an exemption under Section  
21 11.13(c) for individuals who are disabled or are 65 years of age or  
22 older is considered to have qualified the homestead for that  
23 exemption on January 1, 2024.

24 (c) If an individual makes improvements to the individual's  
25 residence homestead, other than repairs and other than improvements  
26 required to comply with governmental requirements, the taxing unit  
27 [~~county, municipality, or junior college district~~] may increase the

1 amount of taxes on the homestead in the first year the value of the  
2 homestead is increased on the appraisal roll because of the  
3 enhancement of value by the improvements. The amount of the tax  
4 increase is determined by applying the current tax rate to the  
5 difference between the appraised value of the homestead with the  
6 improvements and the appraised value the homestead ~~[it]~~ would have  
7 had without the improvements. The ~~[A]~~ limitation required  
8 ~~[provided]~~ by this section then applies to the increased amount of  
9 ~~[county, municipal, or junior college district]~~ taxes on the  
10 residence homestead until more improvements, if any, are made.

11 (d) A limitation on ~~[county, municipal, or junior college~~  
12 ~~district]~~ tax increases by a taxing unit required ~~[provided]~~ by  
13 this section expires if on January 1:

14 (1) none of the owners of the structure who qualify for  
15 the exemption provided by Section 11.13(c) for an individual who is  
16 ~~[a]~~ disabled ~~[individual]~~ or is ~~[an individual]~~ 65 years of age or  
17 older and who owned the structure when the limitation ~~[provided by~~  
18 ~~this section]~~ first took effect is using the structure as a  
19 residence homestead; or

20 (2) none of the owners of the structure qualifies for  
21 the exemption provided by Section 11.13(c) for an individual who is  
22 ~~[a]~~ disabled ~~[individual]~~ or is ~~[an individual]~~ 65 years of age or  
23 older.

24 (e) If the appraisal roll provides for taxation of appraised  
25 value for a prior year because a residence homestead exemption for  
26 an individual who is disabled ~~[individuals]~~ or is ~~[individuals]~~ 65  
27 years of age or older was erroneously allowed, the tax assessor for

1 the applicable taxing unit [~~county, municipality, or junior college~~  
2 ~~district~~] shall add, as back taxes due as provided by Section  
3 26.09(d), the positive difference, if any, between the tax that  
4 should have been imposed for that year and the tax that was imposed  
5 because of the provisions of this section.

6 (f) A limitation on tax increases by a taxing unit required  
7 [~~provided~~] by this section does not expire because the owner of an  
8 interest in the structure conveys the interest to a qualifying  
9 trust as defined by Section 11.13(j) if the owner or the owner's  
10 spouse is a trustor of the trust and is entitled to occupy the  
11 structure.

12 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (c), if an individual  
13 who receives a limitation on [~~county, municipal, or junior college~~  
14 ~~district~~] tax increases by a taxing unit required [~~provided~~] by  
15 this section subsequently qualifies a different residence  
16 homestead [~~in the same county, municipality, or junior college~~  
17 ~~district~~] for an exemption under Section 11.13, a taxing unit [~~the~~  
18 ~~county, municipality, or junior college district~~] may not impose ad  
19 valorem taxes on the subsequently qualified homestead in a year in  
20 an amount that exceeds the amount of taxes the taxing unit [~~county,~~  
21 ~~municipality, or junior college district~~] would have imposed on the  
22 subsequently qualified homestead in the first year in which the  
23 individual receives that exemption for the subsequently qualified  
24 homestead had the limitation on tax increases required [~~provided~~]  
25 by this section not been in effect, multiplied by a fraction the  
26 numerator of which is the total amount of taxes [~~the county,~~  
27 ~~municipality, or junior college district~~] imposed by a taxing unit

1 of the same type on the former homestead in the last year in which  
2 the individual received that exemption for the former homestead and  
3 the denominator of which is the total amount of taxes that [~~the~~  
4 ~~county, municipality, or junior college district~~] would have been  
5 imposed by the taxing unit of the same type on the former homestead  
6 in the last year in which the individual received that exemption for  
7 the former homestead had the limitation on tax increases required  
8 [~~provided~~] by this section not been in effect. A limitation under  
9 this subsection does not apply to a taxing unit if the former  
10 homestead was not subject to taxation by a taxing unit of the same  
11 type in the last year in which the individual received the exemption  
12 for the former homestead.

13 (h) An individual who receives a limitation on [~~county,~~  
14 ~~municipal, or junior college district~~] tax increases by a taxing  
15 unit under this section and who subsequently qualifies a different  
16 residence homestead [~~in the same county, municipality, or junior~~  
17 ~~college district~~] for an exemption under Section 11.13, or an agent  
18 of the individual, is entitled to receive from the chief appraiser  
19 of the appraisal district in which the former homestead was located  
20 a written certificate providing the information necessary to  
21 determine whether the individual may qualify for a limitation on  
22 the subsequently qualified homestead under Subsection (g) and to  
23 calculate the amount of taxes a taxing unit of the same type [~~the~~  
24 ~~county, municipality, or junior college district~~] may impose on the  
25 subsequently qualified homestead.

26 (i) If an individual who receives [~~qualifies for~~] a  
27 limitation on [~~county, municipal, or junior college district~~] tax

1 increases by a taxing unit under this section dies, the surviving  
2 spouse of the individual is entitled to the limitation on taxes  
3 imposed by the taxing unit [~~county, municipality, or junior college~~  
4 ~~district~~] on the residence homestead of the individual if:

5 (1) the surviving spouse is disabled or is 55 years of  
6 age or older when the individual dies; and

7 (2) the residence homestead of the individual:

8 (A) is the residence homestead of the surviving  
9 spouse on the date that the individual dies; and

10 (B) remains the residence homestead of the  
11 surviving spouse.

12 (j) If an individual who is 65 years of age or older and  
13 qualifies for a limitation on [~~county, municipal, or junior college~~  
14 ~~district~~] tax increases for the elderly under this section dies in  
15 the first year in which the individual qualified for the limitation  
16 and the individual first qualified for the limitation after the  
17 beginning of that year, except as provided by Subsection (k), the  
18 amount to which the surviving spouse's [~~county, municipal, or~~  
19 ~~junior college district~~] taxes are limited under Subsection (i) is  
20 the amount of taxes imposed by the taxing unit to which the  
21 limitation applies [~~county, municipality, or junior college~~  
22 ~~district, as applicable,~~] on the residence homestead in that year  
23 determined as if the individual qualifying for the exemption had  
24 lived for the entire year.

25 (k) If in the first tax year after the year in which an  
26 individual who is 65 years of age or older dies under the  
27 circumstances described by Subsection (j) the amount of taxes

1 imposed by a taxing unit [~~county, municipality, or junior college~~  
2 ~~district~~] on the residence homestead of the surviving spouse is  
3 less than the amount of taxes imposed by the taxing unit [~~county,~~  
4 ~~municipality, or junior college district~~] in the preceding year as  
5 limited by Subsection (j), in a subsequent tax year the surviving  
6 spouse's taxes imposed by the taxing unit [~~county, municipality, or~~  
7 ~~junior college district~~] on that residence homestead are limited to  
8 the amount of taxes imposed by the taxing unit [~~county,~~  
9 ~~municipality, or junior college district~~] in that first tax year  
10 after the year in which the individual dies.

11 (1) Notwithstanding Subsection (d), a limitation on  
12 [~~county, municipal, or junior college district~~] tax increases by a  
13 taxing unit required [~~provided~~] by this section does not expire if  
14 the owner of the structure qualifies for an exemption under Section  
15 11.13 under the circumstances described by Section 11.135(a).

16 SECTION 3. Section 23.19(g), Tax Code, is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18 (g) A tax bill or a separate statement accompanying the tax  
19 bill to a cooperative housing corporation for which interests of  
20 stockholders are separately appraised under this section must  
21 state, in addition to the information required by Section 31.01,  
22 the appraised value and taxable value of each interest separately  
23 appraised. Each exemption claimed as provided by this title by a  
24 person entitled to the exemption shall also be deducted from the  
25 total appraised value of the property of the corporation. The total  
26 tax imposed by a school district or other taxing unit [~~county,~~  
27 ~~municipality, or junior college district~~] shall be reduced by any



1 amount that represents an increase in taxes attributable to  
2 separately appraised interests of the real property and  
3 improvements that are subject to the limitation of taxes prescribed  
4 by Section 11.26 or 11.261. The corporation shall apportion among  
5 its stockholders liability for reimbursing the corporation for  
6 property taxes according to the relative taxable values of their  
7 interests.

8 SECTION 4. Sections 26.012(6), (13), and (14), Tax Code,  
9 are amended to read as follows:

10 (6) "Current total value" means the total taxable  
11 value of property listed on the appraisal roll for the current year,  
12 including all appraisal roll supplements and corrections as of the  
13 date of the calculation, less the taxable value of property  
14 exempted for the current tax year for the first time under Section  
15 11.31 or 11.315, except that:

16 (A) the current total value for a school district  
17 excludes:

18 (i) the total value of homesteads that  
19 qualify for a tax limitation as provided by Section 11.26; and

20 (ii) new property value of property that is  
21 subject to an agreement entered into under Chapter 313; and

22 (B) the current total value for a taxing unit  
23 other than a school district [~~county, municipality, or junior~~  
24 ~~college district~~] excludes the total value of homesteads that  
25 qualify for a tax limitation as provided by Section 11.261.

26 (13) "Last year's levy" means the total of:

27 (A) the amount of taxes that would be generated

1 by multiplying the total tax rate adopted by the governing body in  
2 the preceding year by the total taxable value of property on the  
3 appraisal roll for the preceding year, including:

4 (i) taxable value that was reduced in an  
5 appeal under Chapter 42;

6 (ii) all appraisal roll supplements and  
7 corrections other than corrections made pursuant to Section  
8 25.25(d), as of the date of the calculation, except that last year's  
9 taxable value for a school district excludes the total value of  
10 homesteads that qualified for a tax limitation as provided by  
11 Section 11.26 and last year's taxable value for a taxing unit other  
12 than a school district [~~county, municipality, or junior college~~  
13 ~~district~~] excludes the total value of homesteads that qualified for  
14 a tax limitation as provided by Section 11.261; and

15 (iii) the portion of taxable value of  
16 property that is the subject of an appeal under Chapter 42 on July  
17 25 that is not in dispute; and

18 (B) the amount of taxes refunded by the taxing  
19 unit in the preceding year for tax years before that year.

20 (14) "Last year's total value" means the total taxable  
21 value of property listed on the appraisal roll for the preceding  
22 year, including all appraisal roll supplements and corrections,  
23 other than corrections made pursuant to Section 25.25(d), as of the  
24 date of the calculation, except that:

25 (A) last year's taxable value for a school  
26 district excludes the total value of homesteads that qualified for  
27 a tax limitation as provided by Section 11.26; and

1                   (B) last year's taxable value for a taxing unit  
2 other than a school district [~~county, municipality, or junior~~  
3 ~~college district~~] excludes the total value of homesteads that  
4 qualified for a tax limitation as provided by Section [11.261](#).

5           SECTION 5. This Act applies only to ad valorem taxes imposed  
6 for a tax year beginning on or after the effective date of this Act.

7           SECTION 6. This Act takes effect January 1, 2024, but only  
8 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 88th Legislature,  
9 Regular Session, 2023, establishing a limitation on the total  
10 amount of ad valorem taxes that certain political subdivisions may  
11 impose on the residence homesteads of persons who are disabled or  
12 elderly and their surviving spouses is approved by the voters. If  
13 that amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no  
14 effect.