

1-1 By: Goolsby (Senate Sponsor - Carona) H.B. No. 500
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 14, 2003;
1-3 April 15, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-4 Affairs; May 20, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 20, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the confidentiality of certain information contained in
1-9 applications for ad valorem tax exemptions; providing criminal
1-10 penalties.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 11, Tax Code, is amended by
1-13 adding Section 11.48 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 11.48. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. (a) A driver's
1-15 license number, personal identification certificate number, or
1-16 social security account number provided in an application for an
1-17 exemption filed with a chief appraiser is confidential and not open
1-18 to public inspection. The information may not be disclosed to
1-19 anyone other than an employee of the appraisal office who appraises
1-20 property, except as authorized by Subsection (b).

1-21 (b) Information made confidential by this section may be
1-22 disclosed:

1-23 (1) in a judicial or administrative proceeding
1-24 pursuant to a lawful subpoena;

1-25 (2) to the person who filed the application or to the
1-26 person's representative authorized in writing to receive the
1-27 information;

1-28 (3) to the comptroller and the comptroller's employees
1-29 authorized by the comptroller in writing to receive the information
1-30 or to an assessor or a chief appraiser if requested in writing;

1-31 (4) in a judicial or administrative proceeding
1-32 relating to property taxation to which the person who filed the
1-33 application is a party; or

1-34 (5) if and to the extent the information is required to
1-35 be included in a public document or record that the appraisal office
1-36 is required by law to prepare or maintain.

1-37 (c) A person who legally has access to an application for an
1-38 exemption or who legally obtains the information from the
1-39 application made confidential by this section commits an offense if
1-40 the person knowingly:

1-41 (1) permits inspection of the confidential
1-42 information by a person not authorized by Subsection (b) to inspect
1-43 the information; or

1-44 (2) discloses the confidential information to a person
1-45 not authorized by Subsection (b) to receive the information.

1-46 (d) An offense under Subsection (c) is a Class B
1-47 misdemeanor.

1-48 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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