

By: Eiland

H.B. No. 927

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the selection of appraisal review board members.

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

SECTION 1. Section 6.41, Tax Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d-1)-(d-5) to read as follows:

(d-1) Not later than October 1 of each year or promptly after a vacancy occurs on the appraisal review board, the appraisal district shall give notice that it is accepting applications for appointment to the appraisal review board. The notice must contain:

(1) a statement in substantially the following form:

"NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD"

"The (name of the appraisal district) is accepting applications from persons desiring to serve on the (name of the appraisal district) appraisal review board. The appraisal review board is appointed by the appraisal district board of directors to hear and resolve disputes over property tax appraisal matters. Interested applicants should provide the (name of the appraisal district) with a resume or a letter or statement of relevant experience, including contact information, by (date the application is due). Applications may be submitted by mail addressed to the attention of (name of the responsible person and mailing address of the appraisal district) or in person to (hand delivery address of the appraisal district)."; and

1 (2) the following information:

2 (A) a statement that an applicant must have
3 resided in the appraisal district for at least two years to be
4 eligible to serve on the appraisal review board;

5 (B) a list of the restrictions on eligibility
6 that are applicable to the appraisal review board for the appraisal
7 district as provided by Section 6.412, stated in clear and simple
8 language; and

9 (C) information regarding compensation and
10 reimbursement for expenses of appraisal review board members.

11 (d-2) The notice shall be:

12 (1) mailed to each person who is listed as a property
13 owner in the appraisal records of the appraisal district; or

14 (2) published in a newspaper having general
15 circulation in the county for which the appraisal district is
16 established and posted at the door of the county courthouse.

17 (d-3) If the notice is published in a newspaper:

18 (1) the notice may not be smaller than one-quarter
19 page of a standard-size or tabloid-size newspaper;

20 (2) the headline must be in 18-point or larger type;
21 and

22 (3) the notice may not appear in the part of the
23 newspaper in which legal notices and classified advertisements
24 appear.

25 (d-4) The appraisal district board of directors shall
26 appoint members of the appraisal review board first from the pool of
27 applicants who submit applications under Subsection (d-1). The

1 board of directors may reject an applicant for good cause and shall
2 retain documentation stating the reason the applicant was rejected.
3 Only after considering each application received may the board of
4 directors appoint members from outside the pool of applicants.

5 (d-5) If a vacancy occurs on an appraisal review board, the
6 appraisal district board of directors by resolution may appoint a
7 temporary member without complying with the requirements of
8 Subsections (d-1)-(d-4). The temporary member serves until a
9 permanent member is appointed in accordance with Subsections
10 (d-1)-(d-4) to serve for the unexpired portion of the term.

11 SECTION 2. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

12 (b) The change in law made by this Act applies only to the
13 appointment of an appraisal review board member for a term
14 beginning on or after January 1, 2004. The appointment of an
15 appraisal review board member for a term beginning before January
16 1, 2004, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the
17 effective date of this Act, and the law is continued in effect for
18 that purpose.