

By: Harris

S.B. No. 1452

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to an offense for certain communications between an appraisal review board member and a chief appraiser or appraisal district employee concerning a matter related to an ad valorem tax protest.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 6, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 6.411 to read as follows:

Sec. 6.411. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS; PENALTY. (a) A member of an appraisal review board commits an offense if the member communicates with the chief appraiser or another employee of the appraisal district for which the appraisal review board is established in violation of Section 41.66(f).

(b) A chief appraiser or another employee of an appraisal district commits an offense if the chief appraiser or other employee communicates with a member of the appraisal review board established for the appraisal district in a circumstance in which the appraisal review board member is prohibited by Section 41.66(f) from communicating with the chief appraiser or other employee.

(c) This section does not apply to communications that do not discuss the specific evidence, argument, facts, merits, or property involved in a hearing currently pending before the appraisal review board or to communications between the board and its legal counsel.

1 (d) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

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