

AN ACT

relating to exempting a religious bible from attachment, execution,  
or other seizure for the satisfaction of debts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 42.001, Property Code, is amended by  
amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (e) to read  
as follows:

(b) The following personal property is exempt from seizure  
and is not included in the aggregate limitations prescribed by  
Subsection (a):

(1) current wages for personal services, except for  
the enforcement of court-ordered child support payments;

(2) professionally prescribed health aids of a debtor  
or a dependent of a debtor; ~~and~~

(3) alimony, support, or separate maintenance  
received or to be received by the debtor for the support of the  
debtor or a dependent of the debtor; and

(4) a religious bible or other book containing sacred  
writings of a religion that is seized by a creditor other than a  
lessor of real property who is exercising the lessor's contractual  
or statutory right to seize personal property after a tenant  
breaches a lease agreement for or abandons the real property.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (b)(4), this ~~[This]~~  
section does not prevent seizure by a secured creditor with a

1 contractual landlord's lien or other security in the property to be  
2 seized.

3 (e) A religious bible or other book described by Subsection  
4 (b)(4) that is seized by a lessor of real property in the exercise  
5 of the lessor's contractual or statutory right to seize personal  
6 property after a tenant breaches a lease agreement for the real  
7 property or abandons the real property may not be included in the  
8 aggregate limitations prescribed by Subsection (a).

9 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act do not apply  
10 to property that is, as of the effective date of this Act, subject  
11 to a voluntary bankruptcy proceeding or to valid claims of a holder  
12 of a final judgment who has, by levy or other legal process,  
13 obtained rights superior to those that would otherwise be held by a  
14 trustee in bankruptcy if a bankruptcy petition were then pending  
15 against the debtor. That property is subject to the law as it  
16 existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the  
17 prior law is continued in effect for that purpose.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 167 was passed by the House on March 28, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 167 on May 17, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 167 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 15, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor