

By: Bohac

H.B. No. 697

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of  
3 the appraised value of a residence homestead based on the average  
4 appraised value of all qualified residence homesteads located in  
5 the same county.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 11.13, Tax Code, is amended by adding  
8 Subsection (s) to read as follows:

9 (s) In addition to any other exemptions provided by this  
10 section, an individual is entitled to an exemption from taxation by  
11 a taxing unit of a portion of the appraised value of the  
12 individual's residence homestead in an amount equal to 10 percent,  
13 or a greater percentage not to exceed 25 percent specified by the  
14 governing body of the taxing unit before July 1 in the manner  
15 provided by law for official action by the body, of the average  
16 appraised value in the current tax year of all residence homesteads  
17 that are located in the same county as the individual's homestead  
18 and that qualify for an exemption under this section. The chief  
19 appraiser shall determine the average appraised value of those  
20 residence homesteads according to the appraisal records as of  
21 August 1, including all corrections and changes made as a result of  
22 actions taken under Section 25.25 and Chapters 41 and 42 as of that  
23 date.

24 SECTION 2. Section 25.19(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 (b) The chief appraiser shall separate real from personal  
3 property and include in the notice for each:

4 (1) a list of the taxing units in which the property is  
5 taxable;

6 (2) the appraised value of the property in the  
7 preceding year;

8 (3) the taxable value of the property in the preceding  
9 year for each taxing unit taxing the property;

10 (4) the appraised value of the property for the  
11 current year and the kind and amount of each partial exemption, if  
12 any, including an estimate for each taxing unit of the amount of the  
13 exemption under Section 11.13(s), if applicable, approved for the  
14 current year;

15 (5) if the appraised value is greater than it was in  
16 the preceding year, the amount of tax that would be imposed on the  
17 property on the basis of the tax rate for the preceding year;

18 (6) in italic typeface, the following statement: "The  
19 Texas Legislature does not set the amount of your local taxes. Your  
20 property tax burden is decided by your locally elected officials,  
21 and all inquiries concerning your taxes should be directed to those  
22 officials.";

23 (7) a detailed explanation of the time and procedure  
24 for protesting the value;

25 (8) the date and place the appraisal review board will  
26 begin hearing protests; and

27 (9) a brief explanation that the governing body of

1 each taxing unit decides whether [~~or not~~] taxes on the property will  
2 increase and that the appraisal district only determines the value  
3 of the property.

4 SECTION 3. This Act applies only to ad valorem taxes imposed  
5 for a tax year beginning on or after the effective date of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2008, but only  
7 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 80th Legislature,  
8 Regular Session, 2007, authorizing the legislature to provide for  
9 an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the assessed  
10 value of a residence homestead based on the average assessed value  
11 of all qualified residence homesteads that are located in the same  
12 county as the homestead is approved by the voters. If that  
13 amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.