

By: Carona

S.B. No. 532

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring government entities to inform landowners of
3 their right to seek counsel in eminent domain proceedings.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 21.0111(a), Property Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) A governmental entity with eminent domain authority
8 that wants to acquire real property for a public use:

9 (1) shall disclose to the property owner at the time an
10 offer to purchase is made any and all existing appraisal reports
11 produced or acquired by the governmental entity relating
12 specifically to the owner's property and used in determining the
13 final valuation offer;

14 (2) shall inform the property owner at the time an
15 offer to purchase is made that the property owner may seek legal
16 counsel;

17 (3) shall provide to the property owner at the time an
18 offer to purchase is made an estimate of the costs of legal
19 services; and

20 (4) may not advise the property owner that the
21 property owner does not need to seek legal counsel.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.