

AN ACT

relating to the landowner's bill of rights.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.0112(a), Property Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Not later than the seventh day before the date ~~[Before]~~ a governmental or private entity with eminent domain authority makes a final offer to ~~[begins negotiating with]~~ a property owner to acquire real property, the entity must send by first-class mail or otherwise provide a landowner's bill of rights statement provided by Section 402.031, Government Code, to the last known address of the person in whose name the property is listed on the most recent tax roll of any appropriate taxing unit authorized by law to levy property taxes against the property. In addition to the other requirements of this subsection, an entity with eminent domain authority shall provide a copy of the landowner's bill of rights statement to a landowner before or at the same time as the entity first represents in any manner to the landowner that the entity possesses eminent domain authority.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the attorney general's office shall prepare a new landowner's bill of rights statement under Section 402.031, Government Code, as added by Chapter 1201 (H.B. 1495), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, to incorporate the general

1 law changes made by the 81st Legislature and any constitutional
2 amendments proposed by the 81st Legislature and approved by the
3 voters. The attorney general's office shall consult with
4 stakeholders regarding the draft of the statement. The statement
5 shall be drafted in plain language.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 15, 2010.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2685 was passed by the House on May 5, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2685 was passed by the Senate on May 25, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor