

By: Parker

H.B. No. 3596

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a prohibition on the public disclosure of information in appraisal records that identifies a property owner.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 25, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 25.028 to read as follows:

Sec. 25.028. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION IDENTIFYING PROPERTY OWNER. (a) Information in appraisal records under Section 25.02 is confidential and available only for the official use of the appraisal district, this state, the comptroller, and taxing units and political subdivisions of this state if:

(1) the information identifies a property owner; and

(2) the property owner chooses to restrict public access to the information on the form prescribed for that purpose by the comptroller under Section 5.07.

(b) A choice made under Subsection (a) remains valid until rescinded in writing by the property owner.

(c) An appraisal district, taxing unit, assessor, or collector that posts appraisal record information on the Internet must provide notice, on the main Internet website that provides an Internet user with the means to search or access the information, of a property owner's right to prohibit public disclosure of information that identifies the owner in connection with property included in the appraisal records and the procedure for prohibiting

1 disclosure of that information.

2 (d) This section does not prohibit the public disclosure of  
3 information in appraisal records that identifies property  
4 according to an address, if the information does not identify an  
5 owner who has chosen to prohibit disclosure of information that  
6 identifies the owner under Subsection (a) in connection with the  
7 property.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.