

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 2078

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to appraisal review board members.

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

SECTION 1. Section 5.041, Tax Code, is amended by amending Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

(g) Appraisal districts and appraisal review boards are prohibited from conducting their own training for appraisal review board members, and are further prohibited from instructing members to disregard matters taught by the comptroller or to conduct themselves differently from the manner in which they have been instructed by the comptroller.

(h) The chief appraiser, another employee of an appraisal district, or a member of the appraisal review board may contact an appraisal review board member only about administrative, clerical, or logistical matters related to the scheduling and operation of hearings, the processing of documents, the issuance of orders, notices, and subpoenas, and the operation of the appraisal review board.

SECTION 2. Section Sec. 6.43 is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 6.43. PERSONNEL. The appraisal district shall provide the appraisal review board with independent ~~may employ~~ legal counsel of the appraisal review board's own choosing. ~~as provided by the district budget or use the~~ Legal services of ~~of~~ may be provided through the county attorney or through other competent attorneys

1 and the appraisal review board may use the staff of the appraisal  
2 office for clerical assistance. Attorneys are prohibited from  
3 representing an appraisal review board if they or any member of  
4 their law firm within the prior twelve month period has represented  
5 a property owner, an appraisal district or a governmental entity in  
6 connection with the appraisal, valuation, exemption or collection  
7 of property taxes.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.