

By: Menendez

H.B. No. 3542

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to appraisal review boards; providing penalties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 6.41(d-1), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d-1) In a county with a population of 200,000 [~~3.3 million~~] or more, ~~[or a county with a population of 550,000 or more that is adjacent to a county with a population of 3.3 million or more]~~ the members of the board are appointed by the local administrative district judge in the county in which the appraisal district is established.

SECTION 2. Section 6.411, Tax Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c-2) and (c-3) to read as follows:

(c-2) If the local administrative district judge in the county in which the appraisal district is located appoints the members of the appraisal review board as provided by Section 6.41(d-1), the chief appraiser or another employee of the appraisal district, a member of the appraisal review board, or a member of the board of directors of the appraisal district commits an offense if the person communicates with the local administrative district judge with the intent to influence a decision by the judge regarding the appointment of a person as a member of the appraisal review board. This subsection does not apply to communications involving the local administrative district judge and:

1 (1) a person who is a current member of the appraisal
2 review board, if the communication relates solely to that person's
3 reappointment to the appraisal review board; or

4 (2) the taxpayer liaison officer for the appraisal
5 district, if the communication relates to the provision of clerical
6 services by the taxpayer liaison officer.

7 (c-3) A member of an appraisal review board commits an
8 offense if the person communicates with another member of the
9 appraisal review board, a member of the board of directors of the
10 appraisal district, or the local administrative district judge
11 regarding the ranking, scoring, or reporting of the percentage of
12 property value reductions determined by the appraisal review board
13 of an appraisal district.

14 SECTION 3. (a) As soon as practicable on or after January
15 1, 2014, the local administrative district judge or the judge's
16 designee in each county with a population of 200,000 or more that
17 does not already appoint the members of the appraisal review board
18 for the appraisal district established in the county shall appoint
19 the members of the appraisal review board for the appraisal
20 district in the manner provided by Section 6.41, Tax Code, as
21 amended by this Act. In making the initial appointments, the judge
22 or judge's designee shall designate those members who serve terms
23 of one year as necessary to comply with Section 6.41(e), Tax Code.

24 (b) The changes made to Section 6.41, Tax Code, as amended
25 by this Act, apply only to the appointment of appraisal review board
26 members in a county with a population of 200,000 or more to terms
27 beginning on or after January 1, 2014. This Act does not affect the

1 term of an appraisal review board member serving in such a county on
2 December 31, 2013, if the member was appointed before the effective
3 date of this Act to a term that began prior to December 31, 2013, and
4 expires December 31, 2014.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2014.