

By: Sheets

H.B. No. 2043

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of real property of a business that employs honorably discharged veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 11.37 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.37. CERTAIN BUSINESSES EMPLOYING VETERANS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Qualifying business" means a business located in this state that on or after January 1, 2016:

(A) hires at least one veteran; and

(B) provides full-time employment to that veteran for a period of at least 12 consecutive months.

(2) "Veteran" means an individual who:

(A) has served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States; and

(B) was honorably discharged from military service.

(b) Subject to Subsection (d), a person is entitled to an exemption from taxation of a portion, expressed as a dollar amount, of the appraised value of real property the person owns that is reasonably necessary for and used by the person in the operation of a qualifying business if the exemption is adopted by:

1 (1) the governing body of the taxing unit; or

2 (2) a favorable vote of the majority of the qualified
3 voters of the taxing unit at an election called by the governing
4 body.

5 (c) The governing body of a taxing unit shall call an
6 election under Subsection (b)(2) on the petition of at least 20
7 percent of the number of qualified voters who voted in the preceding
8 election of the taxing unit.

9 (d) The amount of the exemption adopted as provided by
10 Subsection (b) may not exceed \$15,000 of the appraised value of the
11 property for each veteran employed by the qualifying business.

12 (e) The chief appraiser may require a person seeking an
13 exemption under this section to present additional information
14 establishing eligibility for the exemption.

15 (f) The governing body of the taxing unit may repeal the
16 exemption in the manner provided by law for official action by the
17 commissioners court.

18 SECTION 2. This Act applies only to ad valorem taxes imposed
19 for a tax year that begins on or after the effective date of this
20 Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016, but only
22 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 84th Legislature,
23 Regular Session, 2015, authorizing the governing body of a
24 political subdivision to adopt a local option exemption from ad
25 valorem taxation of a portion, expressed as a dollar amount, of the
26 market value of real property of a business that employs honorably
27 discharged veterans is approved by the voters. If that amendment is

H.B. No. 2043

1 not approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.