

By: Parker

H.B. No. 3297

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to pretrial settlement discussions during certain ad
valorem tax appeals.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 42, Tax Code, is amended by
adding Section 42.227 to read as follows:

Sec. 42.227. PRETRIAL SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS. (a) On motion
of a property owner that is a party to an appeal under this chapter
for which a discovery request to designate one or more expert
witnesses is made, the court shall enter an order requiring the
parties to engage in settlement discussions before the trial
begins. The motion must be made not later than the 210th day before
the date the discovery period in the appeal ends.

(b) If a motion is made under this section, the court shall
order the settlement discussions to be conducted not later than the
90th day after the date the motion is made. The court may provide in
the order that settlement discussions be conducted in a specific
manner, including as part of an informal settlement conference or
another form of alternative dispute resolution.

(c) Each party ordered to engage in settlement discussions
must make a good faith effort to resolve the matter under appeal
during the discussions.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

H.B. No. 3297

1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.