

By: West

S.B. No. 1843

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a
3 county of a portion of the value of the residence homestead of a
4 physician who provides health care services for which the physician
5 agrees not to seek payment from any source, including the Medicaid
6 program or otherwise from this state or the federal government, to
7 indigent residents of the county.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 11.13, Tax Code, is amended by amending
10 Subsection (i) and adding Subsection (v) to read as follows:

11 (i) The assessor and collector for a taxing unit may
12 disregard the exemptions authorized by Subsection (b), (c), (d),
13 ~~[or] (n), or (v) [of this section]~~ and assess and collect a tax
14 pledged for payment of debt without deducting the amount of the
15 exemption if:

16 (1) prior to adoption of the exemption, the unit
17 pledged the taxes for the payment of a debt; and

18 (2) granting the exemption would impair the obligation
19 of the contract creating the debt.

20 (v) In addition to any other exemptions provided by this
21 section, a licensed physician is entitled to an exemption from
22 taxation by a county of a percentage, not to exceed 50 percent, of
23 the appraised value of the physician's residence homestead if the
24 exemption is adopted by the commissioners court of the county in the

1 manner provided by law for official action by the commissioners
2 court. To be eligible to receive an exemption under this
3 subsection, a physician must provide health care services to
4 indigent residents of the county and not seek payment for those
5 services from any source, including the Medicaid program or
6 otherwise from this state or the federal government. The
7 commissioners court shall specify in the order adopting the
8 exemption the number of indigent county residents to whom a
9 physician must provide health care services during a tax year to be
10 eligible to receive an exemption under this subsection. The
11 commissioners court may express the number as a percentage of the
12 physician's total practice. The commissioners court shall submit
13 to the chief appraiser a copy of the order adopting the exemption
14 and any subsequent order adopted by the commissioners court that
15 relates to the exemption. The chief appraiser may require a
16 physician seeking an exemption under this subsection to present
17 additional information establishing eligibility for the exemption.
18 The commissioners court may repeal the exemption in the manner
19 provided by law for official action by the commissioners court.

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

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016, but only
24 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 84th Legislature,
25 Regular Session, 2015, authorizing a local option exemption from ad
26 valorem taxation by a county of a portion of the value of the
27 residence homestead of a physician who provides health care

1 services for which the physician agrees not to seek payment from any
2 source, including the Medicaid program or otherwise from this state
3 or the federal government, to indigent residents of the county, is
4 approved by the voters. If that amendment is not approved by the
5 voters, this Act has no effect.