S.B. No. 1856

AN ACT

relating to the payment of certain ad valorem tax refunds.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 1, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 1.071 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.071.  DELIVERY OF REFUND. (a)  A collector or taxing unit required by this title to deliver a refund to a person shall send the refund to the person's mailing address as listed on the appraisal roll.

(b)  Notwithstanding Subsection (a), if a person files a written request with the collector or taxing unit that a refund owed to the person be sent to a particular address, the collector or taxing unit shall send the refund to the address stated in the request.

SECTION 2.  Section 11.431(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  If a late application is approved after approval of the appraisal records by the appraisal review board, the chief appraiser shall notify the collector for each unit in which the residence is located not later than the 30th day after the date the late application is approved. The collector shall deduct from the person's tax bill the amount of tax imposed on the exempted amount if the tax has not been paid. If the tax has been paid, the collector shall refund to the person who was the owner of the property on the date the tax was paid the amount of tax imposed on the exempted amount. The collector shall pay the refund not later than the 60th day after the date the chief appraiser notifies the collector of the approval of the exemption. A person is not required to apply for a refund under this subsection to receive the refund.

SECTION 3.  Section 11.439(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  If a late application is approved after approval of the appraisal records for the year for which the exemption is granted, the chief appraiser shall notify the collector for each taxing unit in which the property was taxable in that year not later than the 30th day after the date the late application is approved. The collector shall correct the taxing unit's tax roll to reflect the amount of tax imposed on the property after applying the exemption and shall deduct from the person's tax bill the amount of tax imposed on the exempted portion of the property for that year. If the tax and any related penalties and interest have been paid, the collector shall pay to the person who was the owner of the property on the date the tax was paid a refund of the tax imposed on the exempted portion of the property and the corresponding portion of any related penalties and interest paid. The collector shall pay the refund not later than the 60th day after the date the chief appraiser notifies the collector of the approval of the exemption.

SECTION 4.  Section 26.112(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  If an individual qualifies for an exemption under Section 11.13(c) or (d), 11.133, or 11.134 with respect to the property after the amount of the tax due on the property is calculated and the effect of the qualification is to reduce the amount of the tax due on the property, the assessor for each taxing unit shall recalculate the amount of the tax due on the property and correct the tax roll. If the tax bill has been mailed and the tax on the property has not been paid, the assessor shall mail a corrected tax bill to the person in whose name the property is listed on the tax roll or to the person's authorized agent. If the tax on the property has been paid, the tax collector for the taxing unit shall refund to the person who was the owner of the property on the date the tax was paid [~~the tax~~] the amount by which the payment exceeded the tax due.

SECTION 5.  Section 26.1125(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  If a person qualifies for an exemption under Section 11.131 with respect to the property after the amount of the tax due on the property is calculated and the effect of the qualification is to reduce the amount of the tax due on the property, the assessor for each taxing unit shall recalculate the amount of the tax due on the property and correct the tax roll. If the tax bill has been mailed and the tax on the property has not been paid, the assessor shall mail a corrected tax bill to the person in whose name the property is listed on the tax roll or to the person's authorized agent. If the tax on the property has been paid, the tax collector for the taxing unit shall refund to the person who was the owner of the property on the date the tax was paid [~~the tax~~] the amount by which the payment exceeded the tax due.

SECTION 6.  Section 26.1127(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  If an individual qualifies for an exemption under Section 11.132 with respect to the property after the amount of the tax due on the property is calculated and the effect of the qualification is to reduce the amount of the tax due on the property, the assessor for each taxing unit shall recalculate the amount of the tax due on the property and correct the tax roll. If the tax bill has been mailed and the tax on the property has not been paid, the assessor shall mail a corrected tax bill to the individual in whose name the property is listed on the tax roll or to the individual's authorized agent. If the tax on the property has been paid, the tax collector for the taxing unit shall refund to the individual who was the owner of the property on the date the tax was paid [~~the tax~~] the amount by which the payment exceeded the tax due.

SECTION 7.  The change in law made by this Act applies only to a refund made on or after the effective date of this Act. A refund made before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the refund was made, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 8.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1856 passed the Senate on April 26, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 30, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1856 passed the House on May 17, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 147, Nays 0, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor