

By: Krause

H.B. No. 1333

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1333:

By: Sanford

C.S.H.B. No. 1333

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the administration of the ad valorem tax system.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1.07(a), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) An official or agency required by this title to deliver a notice to a property owner may deliver the notice by regular first-class mail, with postage prepaid, unless this section or another provision of this title requires or authorizes a different method of delivery or the parties agree that the notice must be delivered as provided by Section 1.085 or 1.086.

SECTION 2. Chapter 1, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 1.086 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.086. DELIVERY OF CERTAIN NOTICES BY E-MAIL. (a) On the written request of the owner of a residential property that is occupied by the owner as the owner's principal residence, the chief appraiser of the appraisal district in which the property is located shall send each notice required by this title related to the following to the e-mail address of the owner:

(1) a change in value of the property;

(2) the eligibility of the property for an exemption;

or

(3) the grant, denial, cancellation, or other change in the status of an exemption or exemption application applicable

1 to the property.

2 (b) A property owner must provide the e-mail address to
3 which the chief appraiser must send the notices described by
4 Subsection (a) in a request made under that subsection.

5 (c) A chief appraiser who delivers a notice electronically
6 under this section is not required to mail the same notice to the
7 property owner.

8 (d) A request made under this section remains in effect
9 until revoked by the property owner in a written revocation filed
10 with the chief appraiser.

11 (e) After a property owner makes a request under this
12 section and before a chief appraiser may deliver a notice
13 electronically under this section, the chief appraiser must send an
14 e-mail to the address provided by the property owner confirming the
15 owner's request to receive notices electronically.

16 (f) The chief appraiser of an appraisal district that
17 maintains an Internet website shall provide a form on the website
18 that a property owner may use to electronically make a request under
19 this section.

20 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 6, Tax Code, is amended by
21 adding Section 6.054 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 6.054. RESTRICTION ON EMPLOYMENT BY APPRAISAL
23 DISTRICT. An individual may not be employed by an appraisal
24 district if the individual is:

25 (1) an officer of a taxing unit that participates in
26 the appraisal district; or

27 (2) an employee of a taxing unit that participates in

1 the appraisal district.

2 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 6, Tax Code, is amended by
3 adding Section 6.16 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 6.16. RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNER ASSISTANCE. (a) The
5 chief appraiser of each appraisal district shall maintain a list of
6 the following individuals who have designated themselves as an
7 individual who will provide free assistance to an owner of
8 residential property that is occupied by the owner as the owner's
9 principal residence:

10 (1) a real estate broker or sales agent licensed under
11 Chapter 1101, Occupations Code;

12 (2) a real estate appraiser licensed or certified
13 under Chapter 1103, Occupations Code; or

14 (3) a property tax consultant registered under Chapter
15 1152, Occupations Code.

16 (b) On the request of an owner described by Subsection (a),
17 the chief appraiser shall provide to the owner a copy of the list
18 maintained under this section.

19 (c) The list must:

20 (1) be organized by county;

21 (2) be available on the appraisal district's Internet
22 website, if the appraisal district maintains a website; and

23 (3) provide the name, contact information, and job
24 title of each individual who will provide free assistance.

25 (d) A person must designate himself or herself as an
26 individual who will provide free assistance by completing a form
27 prescribed by the chief appraiser and submitting the form to the

1 chief appraiser.

2 SECTION 5. Chapter 25, Tax Code, is amended by adding
3 Sections 25.192 and 25.193 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 25.192. NOTICE OF RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
5 ELIGIBILITY. (a) This section applies only to residential
6 property that has not qualified for a residence homestead exemption
7 in the current tax year.

8 (b) If the records of the appraisal district indicate that
9 the address of the property is also the address of the owner of the
10 property, the chief appraiser must send to the property owner a
11 notice that contains:

12 (1) the following statement in boldfaced 18-point type
13 at the top of the first page of the notice: "NOTICE: A residence
14 homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation is NOT currently being
15 allowed on the property listed below. However, our records show
16 that this property may qualify for a residence homestead exemption,
17 which will reduce your taxes.";

18 (2) following the statement described by Subdivision
19 (1), the following statement in 12-point type: "According to the
20 records of the appraisal district, the property described in this
21 notice may be your primary residence and may qualify for a residence
22 homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation. If the property is
23 your home and you occupy it as your primary residence, the property
24 likely qualifies for one or more residence homestead exemptions,
25 which will reduce the amount of taxes imposed on the property. The
26 form needed to apply for a residence homestead exemption is
27 enclosed. Although the form may state that the deadline for filing

1 an application for a residence homestead exemption is April 30, a
2 late application for a residence homestead exemption will be
3 accepted if filed before February 1, (insert year application must
4 be filed). There is no fee or charge for filing an application or a
5 late application for a residence homestead exemption."; and

6 (3) following the statement described by Subdivision
7 (2), the address to which the notice is sent.

8 (c) The notice required by this section must be accompanied
9 by an application form for a residence homestead exemption.

10 (d) If a property owner has elected to receive notices by
11 e-mail as provided by Section 1.086, the notice required by this
12 section must be sent in that manner separately from any other notice
13 sent to the property owner by the chief appraiser.

14 Sec. 25.193. NOTICE OF CERTAIN CANCELED OR REDUCED
15 EXEMPTIONS. (a) By April 1 or as soon thereafter as practicable if
16 the property is a single-family residence that qualifies for an
17 exemption under Section 11.13, or by May 1 or as soon thereafter as
18 practicable in connection with residential property that does not
19 qualify for an exemption under Section 11.13, the chief appraiser
20 shall deliver a clear and understandable written notice to a
21 property owner if an exemption or partial exemption that was
22 approved for the preceding year was canceled or reduced for the
23 current year.

24 (b) If a property owner has elected to receive notices by
25 e-mail as provided by Section 1.086, for property described by that
26 section, the notice required by this section must be sent in that
27 manner regardless of whether the information was also included in a

1 notice under Section 25.19 and must be sent separately from any
2 other notice sent to the property owner by the chief appraiser.

3 SECTION 6. Section 25.19(b-2), Tax Code, is repealed.

4 SECTION 7. Section 25.19, Tax Code, as amended by this Act,
5 and Sections 25.192 and 25.193, Tax Code, as added by this Act,
6 apply only to a notice for a tax year beginning on or after the
7 effective date of this Act. A notice for a tax year beginning
8 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in
9 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that
10 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

11 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect January 1, 2020.