

By: Bailes

H.B. No. 1919

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the right of property owners to file complaints against  
3 certain entities regulated by the Railroad Commission of Texas  
4 regarding alleged misconduct by the entities while exercising  
5 eminent domain authority.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 402.031(b), Government Code, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 (b) The landowner's bill of rights must notify each property  
10 owner that the property owner has the right to:

11 (1) notice of the proposed acquisition of the owner's  
12 property;

13 (2) a bona fide good faith effort to negotiate by the  
14 entity proposing to acquire the property;

15 (3) an assessment of damages to the owner that will  
16 result from the taking of the property;

17 (4) a hearing under Chapter 21, Property Code,  
18 including a hearing on the assessment of damages; ~~and~~

19 (5) an appeal of a judgment in a condemnation  
20 proceeding, including an appeal of an assessment of damages; and

21 (6) if the entity proposing to acquire the owner's  
22 property is regulated by the Railroad Commission of Texas, file a  
23 written complaint with the commission regarding alleged misconduct  
24 by the entity while exercising the entity's eminent domain

1 authority.

2 SECTION 2. Section 81.0591, Natural Resources Code, is  
3 amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

4 (d) If an entity that proposes to acquire property through  
5 the use of the entity's eminent domain authority under Chapter 21,  
6 Property Code, is regulated by the commission, the property owner  
7 may file a written complaint with the commission under this section  
8 regarding alleged misconduct by the entity while exercising that  
9 authority.

10 SECTION 3. The office of the attorney general shall make the  
11 landowner's bill of rights statement required by Section 402.031,  
12 Government Code, as amended by this Act, available on the attorney  
13 general's Internet website not later than January 1, 2020.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2020.