

By: Watson

S.B. No. 1079

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study regarding ad valorem tax relief through the use of a circuit breaker program.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

(1) "Circuit breaker program" means a program that limits the amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on a residence homestead based on the owner's annual income.

(2) "Residence homestead" has the meaning assigned by Section 11.13, Tax Code.

(b) The comptroller shall conduct a study to examine circuit breaker programs as a means of expanding and protecting the homestead interests of low-income and moderate-income families.

(c) Before collecting information for purposes of the study, the comptroller shall establish an advisory committee to assist the comptroller in conducting the study. The advisory committee must be composed of representatives of:

- (1) school districts and other taxing units;
- (2) home builders;
- (3) real estate agents;
- (4) mortgage lenders;
- (5) financial agencies involved in mortgage markets;
- (6) organizations interested in housing for low-income and moderate-income households;

1 (7) organizations interested in the effect of ad
2 valorem taxes on low-income and moderate-income households;

3 (8) organizations interested in the effect of public
4 policy on low-income and moderate-income households; and

5 (9) other appropriate, interested organizations or
6 members of the public, as determined by the comptroller.

7 (d) The comptroller and the advisory committee shall
8 analyze the information studied and prepare a report containing the
9 results of the study conducted under this section.

10 (e) The comptroller may contract with appraisal districts,
11 taxing units, or other appropriate organizations for assistance and
12 to obtain information necessary to conduct the study. A state
13 agency, appraisal district, or taxing unit shall assist the
14 comptroller if the comptroller requests information or assistance
15 in conducting the study.

16 (f) Not later than December 1, 2020, the comptroller shall
17 submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the
18 house of representatives the report prepared under Subsection (d)
19 of this section.

20 (g) This section expires September 1, 2021.

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.