

By: Allison

H.B. No. 158

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a study of the desirability, feasibility, and effects
3 of various measures to limit or reduce the burden of ad valorem
4 taxes on property owners.

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

6 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "commission" means the
7 Commission to Study Measures to Limit or Reduce Ad Valorem Taxes.

8 SECTION 2. COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION. The commission is
9 composed of nine members as follows:

10 (1) the comptroller of public accounts;

11 (2) two chief appraisers appointed by the comptroller
12 of public accounts, one of whom is employed by an appraisal district
13 established in an urban county and one of whom is employed by an
14 appraisal district established in a rural county;

15 (3) two members of the senate appointed by the
16 lieutenant governor;

17 (4) two members of the house of representatives
18 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

19 (5) two public members appointed by the governor.

20 SECTION 3. PRESIDING OFFICER. The comptroller of public
21 accounts is the presiding officer of the commission.

22 SECTION 4. MEETINGS. The commission shall meet at the call
23 of the presiding officer of the commission.

24 SECTION 5. STAFF. The staff of the office of the

1 comptroller of public accounts shall serve as the staff of the
2 commission.

3 SECTION 6. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES. A
4 commission member is not entitled to receive compensation for
5 service on the commission but is entitled to reimbursement for
6 actual and necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred
7 by the member in performing commission duties.

8 SECTION 7. STUDY. (a) The commission shall conduct a study
9 of the desirability, feasibility, and effects of various measures
10 to limit or reduce the burden of ad valorem taxes on property
11 owners, including:

12 (1) limiting the appraised value of real property for
13 ad valorem tax purposes to the value when the owner acquired the
14 property and determining that value on the basis of the purchase
15 price of the property, if applicable;

16 (2) lowering the limitation in current law on annual
17 increases in the appraised value of residence homesteads or
18 expanding the applicability of the limitation to include a broader
19 class of real property, such as residential real property
20 generally;

21 (3) providing for additional exemptions from ad
22 valorem taxation of all or part of the appraised value of certain
23 classes of property, including homes purchased by first-time
24 homebuyers;

25 (4) limiting the total amount of ad valorem taxes that
26 a taxing unit may impose on property that an individual has owned
27 for a specified period; and

1 (5) increasing the state's share of the cost of funding
2 public education.

3 (b) In studying implementing the measures described by
4 Subsection (a) of this section, the commission shall consider:

5 (1) the fairness of doing so;

6 (2) the effects of doing so on the overall tax burden
7 and the distribution of the tax burden;

8 (3) the effects of doing so on the real estate market;
9 and

10 (4) the statutory, constitutional, and administrative
11 changes that would be necessary to do so.

12 SECTION 8. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2022, the
13 commission shall issue a report of the results of the study,
14 including any legislative recommendations, to the governor,
15 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.

16 SECTION 9. ABOLITION AND EXPIRATION. The commission is
17 abolished and this Act expires September 1, 2023.

18 SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
19 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
20 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
21 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
22 immediate effect, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
23 last day of the legislative session.