By:  Murr H.B. No. 4099

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an interim study of the appraisal of agricultural land for ad valorem tax purposes.

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

SECTION 1.  JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON TAX APPRAISAL OF AGRICULTURAL LAND. (a) A joint interim committee is created to study, review, and report to the legislature on the methods and procedures for appraising agricultural land for ad valorem tax purposes.

(b)  The joint interim committee is composed of the members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs.

(c)  The chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and the chair of the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs shall serve as co-chairs of the joint interim committee.

(d)  The joint interim committee shall convene at the joint call of the co-chairs.

(e)  The joint interim committee has all other powers and duties provided to a special or select committee by the rules of the senate and house of representatives, by Subchapter B, Chapter 301, Government Code, and by policies of the senate and house committees on administration.

SECTION 2.  STUDY. The committee created under Section 1 of this Act shall study:

(1)  the methods and procedures for appraising agricultural land for ad valorem taxation under the laws of this state;

(2)  the role of the comptroller of public accounts in providing guidance to appraisal districts regarding the tax appraisal of agricultural land;

(3)  whether the manual relating to the appraisal of agricultural land published by the comptroller of public accounts should be updated;

(4)  whether additional training on appraising of agricultural land for taxation should be provided to each chief appraiser of an appraisal district;

(5)  whether the legislature should enact laws to provide additional special valuation, exemption, or other beneficial ad valorem tax treatment for the owners of agricultural land;

(6)  whether the statewide formulas used for appraising agricultural land should be updated to produce more accurate appraisals;

(7)  whether owners of agricultural land should be required to complete the comptroller of public accounts' Texas Farm and Ranch Survey; and

(8)  how to best clarify the appraisal protest process for property owners of agricultural land, including the role and duties of appraisal review boards.

SECTION 3.  FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. Not later than December 22, 2022, the committee created by this Act shall report the committee's findings and recommendations to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor.

SECTION 4.  EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2023.

SECTION 5.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.