

By: Landgraf

H.B. No. 151

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to exercise of authority by a personal representative of a
3 decedent's estate without court approval.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 351.052(a), Estates Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (a) A personal representative of an estate may, without
8 application to or order of the court:

9 (1) release a lien on payment at maturity of the debt
10 secured by the lien;

11 (2) vote stocks by limited or general proxy;

12 (3) pay calls and assessments;

13 (4) insure the estate against liability in appropriate
14 cases;

15 (5) insure estate property against fire, theft, and
16 other hazards; ~~or~~

17 (6) pay taxes, court costs, and bond premiums;

18 (7) hire an accountant, bookkeeper, or other tax
19 professional to assist with any tax filing required for the
20 decedent or the estate;

21 (8) hire a real estate agent to assist with the
22 marketing and selling of any real property of the estate;

23 (9) hire an appraiser to assist with any valuations
24 required for estate property for which the court has not appointed

1 an appraiser to appraise the property;

2 (10) pay all reasonable costs necessary to exercise
3 the personal representative's duty of care under Section 351.101;

4 or

5 (11) pay all reasonable costs related to the exercise
6 of any power listed in Subdivisions (1)-(9).

7 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act to Section
8 351.052(a), Estates Code, apply only to the administration of the
9 estate of a decedent who dies on or after the effective date of this
10 Act. The administration of the estate of a decedent who dies before
11 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on
12 the date of the decedent's death, and the former law is continued in
13 effect for that purpose.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.