88R3208 RDS-D

By:  Metcalf, Toth, et al. H.B. No. 1228

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the right of a property owner or the owner's agent to receive on request a copy of the information used to appraise the owner's property for ad valorem tax purposes.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 25.195, Tax Code, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1) and (c-1) and amending Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(a-1)  On request by a property owner or the designated agent of an owner, a chief appraiser shall provide electronically or by mail at the address designated by the property owner or agent a copy of the records, supporting data, schedules, and other material and information the owner or agent is entitled to inspect and copy under Subsection (a). A chief appraiser may not impose a fee for providing a copy of records, supporting data, schedules, or other material or information under this subsection.

(c-1)  On request by a property owner or the designated agent of an owner, a private appraisal firm shall provide electronically or by mail at the address designated by the property owner or agent a copy of the information the owner or agent is entitled to inspect and copy under Subsection (c). A private appraisal firm may not impose a fee for providing a copy of information under this subsection.

(d)  The appraisal firm shall make information covered by Subsection (c) available for inspection and copying by the owner or agent or provide the information as required by Subsection (c-1), as applicable, not later than the 15th day after the date the owner or agent delivers a written request to inspect or receive a copy of the information, unless the owner or agent agrees in writing to a later date.

(e)  If an owner or agent states under oath in a document filed with an appraisal review board in connection with a proceeding initiated under Section 25.25 or Chapter 41 that the applicable appraisal firm has not complied with a request for inspection or copying under Subsection (c) or a request to receive a copy of information under Subsection (c-1) related to the property that is the subject of the proceeding, the board may not conduct a hearing on the merits of any claim relating to that property and may not approve the appraisal records relating to that property until the board determines in a hearing that:

(1)  the appraisal firm has made the information available for inspection and copying as required by Subsection (c) or has provided the information as required by Subsection (c-1), as applicable; or

(2)  the owner or agent has withdrawn the motion or protest that initiated the proceeding.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect January 1, 2024.