

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the confidentiality of certain information contained in
3 applications for ad valorem tax exemptions; providing criminal
4 penalties.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 11, Tax Code, is amended by
7 adding Section 11.48 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 11.48. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. (a) A driver's
9 license number, personal identification certificate number, or
10 social security account number provided in an application for an
11 exemption filed with a chief appraiser is confidential and not open
12 to public inspection. The information may not be disclosed to
13 anyone other than an employee of the appraisal office who appraises
14 property, except as authorized by Subsection (b).

15 (b) Information made confidential by this section may be
16 disclosed:

17 (1) in a judicial or administrative proceeding
18 pursuant to a lawful subpoena;

19 (2) to the person who filed the application or to the
20 person's representative authorized in writing to receive the
21 information;

22 (3) to the comptroller and the comptroller's employees
23 authorized by the comptroller in writing to receive the information
24 or to an assessor or a chief appraiser if requested in writing;

1 (4) in a judicial or administrative proceeding
2 relating to property taxation to which the person who filed the
3 application is a party; or

4 (5) if and to the extent the information is required to
5 be included in a public document or record that the appraisal office
6 is required by law to prepare or maintain.

7 (c) A person who legally has access to an application for an
8 exemption or who legally obtains the information from the
9 application made confidential by this section commits an offense if
10 the person knowingly:

11 (1) permits inspection of the confidential
12 information by a person not authorized by Subsection (b) to inspect
13 the information; or

14 (2) discloses the confidential information to a person
15 not authorized by Subsection (b) to receive the information.

16 (d) An offense under Subsection (c) is a Class B
17 misdemeanor.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

David Swihart

President of the Senate

Jim Caddick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 500 was passed by the House on April 10, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Robert Haney

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 500 was passed by the Senate on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Antony Spaw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 20 JUN '03

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
12:30 pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 2003
Ann Shea
Secretary of State