

TAX CODE

TITLE 1. PROPERTY TAX CODE

SUBTITLE F. REMEDIES

CHAPTER 41A. APPEAL THROUGH BINDING ARBITRATION

Sec. 41A.01. RIGHT OF APPEAL BY PROPERTY OWNER. As an alternative to filing an appeal under Section 42.01, a property owner is entitled to appeal through binding arbitration under this chapter an appraisal review board order determining a protest filed under Section 41.41(a)(1) or (2) concerning the appraised or market value of property if:

(1) the property qualifies as the owner's residence homestead under Section 11.13; or

(2) the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property as determined by the order is \$3 million or less.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. 1351), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1211 (S.B. 771), Sec. 4, eff. January 1, 2010.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 610 (S.B. 1255), Sec. 1, eff. June 14, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 474 (S.B. 849), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 41A.02. NOTICE OF RIGHT TO ARBITRATION. An appraisal review board that delivers notice of issuance of an order described by Section 41A.01 and a copy of the order to a property owner as required by Section 41.47 shall include with the notice and copy:

(1) a notice of the property owner's rights under this chapter; and

Text of subdivision as added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1

(2) a copy of the form prescribed under Section [41A.04](#).

Text of subdivision as added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., Ch. 372
(S.B. [1351](#)), Sec. 1

(2) a copy of the form prescribed under Section [41A.03\(a\)\(1\)](#).

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. [1351](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. [182](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 41A.03. REQUEST FOR ARBITRATION. (a) To appeal an appraisal review board order under this chapter, a property owner must file with the appraisal district not later than the 45th day after the date the property owner receives notice of the order:

(1) a completed request for binding arbitration under this chapter in the form prescribed by Section [41A.04](#); and

(2) an arbitration deposit made payable to the comptroller in the amount of:

(A) \$450, if the property qualifies as the owner's residence homestead under Section [11.13](#) and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is \$500,000 or less, as determined by the order;

(B) \$500, if the property qualifies as the owner's residence homestead under Section [11.13](#) and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is more than \$500,000, as determined by the order;

(C) \$500, if the property does not qualify as the owner's residence homestead under Section [11.13](#) and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is \$1 million or less, as determined by the order;

(D) \$800, if the property does not qualify as the owner's residence homestead under Section [11.13](#) and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is more than \$1 million but not more than \$2 million, as determined by the order; or

(E) \$1,050, if the property does not qualify as the owner's residence homestead under Section 11.13 and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is more than \$2 million but not more than \$3 million, as determined by the order.

(a-1) If a property owner requests binding arbitration under this chapter to appeal appraisal review board orders involving two or more tracts of land that are contiguous to one another, a single arbitration deposit in the amount provided by Subsection (a)(2) is sufficient to satisfy the requirement of Subsection (a)(2).

(b) A property owner who fails to strictly comply with this section waives the property owner's right to request arbitration under this chapter. A property owner who appeals an appraisal review board order determining a protest concerning the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the owner's property under Chapter 42 waives the owner's right to request binding arbitration under this chapter regarding the value of that property. An arbitrator shall dismiss any pending arbitration proceeding if the property owner's rights are waived under this subsection.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. 1351), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1034 (H.B. 4412), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1211 (S.B. 771), Sec. 5, eff. January 1, 2010.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 488 (S.B. 1662), Sec. 1, eff. January 1, 2014.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1259 (H.B. 585), Sec. 23, eff. June 14, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 474 (S.B. 849), Sec. 2, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 41A.04. CONTENTS OF REQUEST FORM. The comptroller by

rule shall prescribe the form of a request for binding arbitration under this chapter. The form must require the property owner to provide only:

(1) a brief statement that explains the basis for the property owner's appeal of the appraisal review board order;

(2) a statement of the property owner's opinion of the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property that is the subject of the appeal; and

(3) any other information reasonably necessary for the appraisal district to request appointment of an arbitrator.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. 1351), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 41A.05. PROCESSING OF REGISTRATION REQUEST. (a) Not later than the 10th day after the date an appraisal district receives from a property owner a completed request for binding arbitration under this chapter and an arbitration deposit as required by Section 41A.03, the appraisal district shall:

(1) certify the request;

(2) submit the request and deposit to the comptroller;
and

(3) request the comptroller to appoint a qualified arbitrator to conduct the arbitration.

(b) The comptroller may retain \$50 of the deposit to cover the comptroller's administrative costs.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. 1351), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 474 (S.B. 849), Sec. 3, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 41A.06. REGISTRY AND QUALIFICATION OF ARBITRATORS.

(a) The comptroller shall maintain a registry listing the

qualified persons who have agreed to serve as arbitrators under this chapter.

(b) To initially qualify to serve as an arbitrator under this chapter, a person must:

(1) meet the following requirements, as applicable:

(A) be licensed as an attorney in this state; or

(B) have:

(i) completed at least 30 hours of training in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution procedures from a university, college, or legal or real estate trade association; and

(ii) been licensed or certified continuously during the five years preceding the date the person agrees to serve as an arbitrator as:

(a) a real estate broker or salesperson under Chapter 1101, Occupations Code;

(b) a real estate appraiser under Chapter 1103, Occupations Code; or

(c) a certified public accountant under Chapter 901, Occupations Code; and

(2) agree to conduct an arbitration for a fee that is not more than:

(A) \$400, if the property qualifies as the owner's residence homestead under Section 11.13 and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is \$500,000 or less, as determined by the order;

(B) \$450, if the property qualifies as the owner's residence homestead under Section 11.13 and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is more than \$500,000, as determined by the order;

(C) \$450, if the property does not qualify as the owner's residence homestead under Section 11.13 and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is \$1 million or less, as determined by the order;

(D) \$750, if the property does not qualify as the owner's residence homestead under Section 11.13 and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is more than \$1 million but not more than \$2 million, as determined by the order; or

(E) \$1,000, if the property does not qualify as the owner's residence homestead under Section 11.13 and the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property is more than \$2 million but not more than \$3 million, as determined by the order.

(c) An arbitrator must complete a training program on property tax law before conducting a hearing on an arbitration relating to the appeal of an appraisal review board order determining a protest filed under Section 41.41(a)(2). The training program must:

(1) emphasize the requirements regarding the equal and uniform appraisal of property;

(2) be at least four hours in length; and

(3) be approved by the comptroller.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. 1351), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1211 (S.B. 771), Sec. 8, eff. January 1, 2010.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 610 (S.B. 1255), Sec. 2, eff. June 14, 2013.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 610 (S.B. 1255), Sec. 3, eff. June 14, 2013.

Acts 2015, 84th Leg., R.S., Ch. 474 (S.B. 849), Sec. 4, eff. September 1, 2015.

Sec. 41A.061. CONTINUED QUALIFICATION OF ARBITRATOR; RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT. (a) The comptroller shall include a qualified arbitrator in the registry until the second anniversary of the date the person was added to the registry. To continue to be included in the registry after the second anniversary of the date the person was added to the registry, the person must renew the person's agreement with the comptroller to serve as an arbitrator on or as near as possible to the date on which the person's license or certification issued under Chapter 901, 1101, or 1103,

Occupations Code, is renewed.

(b) To renew the person's agreement to serve as an arbitrator, the person must:

(1) file a renewal application with the comptroller at the time and in the manner prescribed by the comptroller;

(2) continue to meet the requirements provided by Section 41A.06(b); and

(3) during the preceding two years have completed at least eight hours of continuing education in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution procedures offered by a university, college, real estate trade association, or legal association.

(c) The comptroller shall remove a person from the registry if the person fails or declines to renew the person's agreement to serve as an arbitrator in the manner required by this section.

Added by Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1211 (S.B. 771), Sec. 9, eff. January 1, 2010.

Sec. 41A.07. APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATOR. (a) On receipt of the request and deposit under Section 41A.05, the comptroller shall send the property owner and the appraisal district a copy of the comptroller's registry of qualified arbitrators and request that the parties select an arbitrator from the registry. The comptroller may send a copy of the registry to the parties by regular mail in paper form or may send the parties written notice of the Internet address of a website at which the registry is maintained and may be accessed. The parties shall attempt to select an arbitrator from the registry.

(b) Not later than the 20th day after the date the parties receive the copy of the registry or notice of the Internet address of the registry website, the appraisal district shall notify the comptroller that:

(1) the parties have selected an arbitrator and request that the comptroller appoint the selected arbitrator; or

(2) the parties were unable to select an arbitrator and request the comptroller to appoint an arbitrator.

(c) On receipt of notice from the appraisal district under Subsection (b), the comptroller shall:

(1) appoint:

(A) the arbitrator selected under Subsection (b)(1), if applicable; or

(B) any arbitrator included in the comptroller's registry, if Subsection (b)(2) applies; and

(2) send notice to the arbitrator appointed, requesting that the arbitrator conduct the arbitration.

(d) If the arbitrator appointed is unable or unwilling to conduct the arbitration for any reason, the arbitrator shall promptly notify the comptroller that the arbitrator does not accept the appointment and state the reason. The comptroller shall appoint a substitute arbitrator promptly after receipt of the notice.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. 1351), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 41A.08. NOTICE AND HEARING; REPRESENTATION OF PARTIES.

(a) On acceptance of an appointment to conduct an arbitration under this chapter, the arbitrator shall set the date, time, and place of a hearing on the arbitration. The arbitrator shall give notice of and conduct the hearing in the manner provided by Subchapter C, Chapter 171, Civil Practice and Remedies Code. The arbitrator:

(1) shall continue a hearing if both parties agree to the continuance; and

(2) may continue a hearing for reasonable cause.

(b) The parties to an arbitration proceeding under this chapter may represent themselves or, at their own cost, may be represented by:

(1) an employee of the appraisal district;

(2) an attorney who is licensed in this state;

(3) a person who is licensed as a real estate broker or salesperson under Chapter 1101, Occupations Code, or is licensed or certified as a real estate appraiser under Chapter 1103, Occupations Code;

(4) a property tax consultant registered under Chapter

1152, Occupations Code; or

(5) an individual who is licensed as a certified public accountant under Chapter 901, Occupations Code.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. 1351), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1211 (S.B. 771), Sec. 10, eff. January 1, 2010.

Sec. 41A.09. AWARD; PAYMENT OF ARBITRATOR'S FEE. (a) Not later than the 20th day after the date the hearing under Section 41A.08 is concluded, the arbitrator shall make an arbitration award and deliver a copy of the award to the property owner, appraisal district, and comptroller.

(b) An award under this section:

(1) must include a determination of the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property that is the subject of the appeal;

(2) may include any remedy or relief a court may order under Chapter 42 in an appeal relating to the appraised or market value of property;

(3) shall specify the arbitrator's fee, which may not exceed the amount provided by Section 41A.06(b)(2);

(4) is final and may not be appealed except as permitted under Section 171.088, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, for an award subject to that section; and

(5) may be enforced in the manner provided by Subchapter D, Chapter 171, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

(c) If the arbitrator determines that the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property that is the subject of the appeal is nearer to the property owner's opinion of the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property as stated in the request for binding arbitration submitted under Section 41A.03 than the value determined by the appraisal review board:

(1) the comptroller, on receipt of a copy of the award,

shall refund the property owner's arbitration deposit, less the amount retained by the comptroller under Section 41A.05(b);

(2) the appraisal district, on receipt of a copy of the award, shall pay the arbitrator's fee; and

(3) the chief appraiser shall correct the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property as shown in the appraisal roll to reflect the arbitrator's determination.

(d) If the arbitrator determines that the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property that is the subject of the appeal is not nearer to the property owner's opinion of the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property as stated in the request for binding arbitration submitted under Section 41A.03 than the value determined by the appraisal review board:

(1) the comptroller, on receipt of a copy of the award, shall:

(A) pay the arbitrator's fee out of the owner's arbitration deposit; and

(B) refund to the owner the owner's arbitration deposit, less the arbitrator's fee and the amount retained by the comptroller under Section 41A.05(b); and

(2) the chief appraiser shall correct the appraised or market value, as applicable, of the property as shown in the appraisal roll to reflect the arbitrator's determination if the value as determined by the arbitrator is less than the value as determined by the appraisal review board.

(e) The comptroller by rule may prescribe a standard form for an award and may require arbitrators to use the award form when making awards under this chapter.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. 1351), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. 182), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 1211 (S.B. 771), Sec. 11, eff. January 1, 2010.

Sec. 41A.10. PAYMENT OF TAXES PENDING APPEAL. (a) The

pendency of an appeal under this chapter does not affect the delinquency date for the taxes on the property subject to the appeal. A property owner who appeals an appraisal review board order under this chapter shall pay taxes on the property subject to the appeal in an amount equal to the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value of the property that is not in dispute. If the final determination of an appeal under this chapter decreases the property owner's tax liability to less than the amount of taxes paid, the taxing unit shall refund to the property owner the difference between the amount of taxes paid and the amount of taxes for which the property owner is liable.

(b) A property owner may not file an appeal under this chapter if the taxes on the property subject to the appeal are delinquent. An arbitrator who determines that the taxes on the property subject to an appeal are delinquent shall dismiss the pending appeal with prejudice. If an appeal is dismissed under this subsection, the comptroller shall refund the property owner's arbitration deposit, less the amount retained by the comptroller under Section [41A.05\(b\)](#).

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. [1351](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. [182](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 41A.11. POSTAPPEAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES. An arbitration award under this chapter is considered to be a final determination of an appeal for purposes of Subchapter C, Chapter [42](#).

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. [1351](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. [182](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 41A.12. USE OF PROPERTIES AS SAMPLES. An arbitrator's determination of market value under this chapter is the market value of the property subject to the appeal for the purposes of the study conducted under Section [403.302](#), Government Code.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. [1351](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. [182](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Amended by:

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 288 (H.B. [8](#)), Sec. 10, eff. January 1, 2010.

Sec. 41A.13. RULES. The comptroller may adopt rules necessary to implement and administer this chapter.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 372 (S.B. [1351](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 912 (H.B. [182](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.