

CHAPTER 561

H.B. No. 2195

An Act relating to the authority and duties of a county historical commission and of a county commissioners court; giving a property owner certain rights; amending Section 1, Chapter 152, Acts of the 58th Legislature, 1963 (Article 6145.1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), by amending Subsections (c), (e), and (g) and by adding Subsection (i).

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 1, Chapter 152, Acts of the 58th Legislature, 1963 (Article 6145.1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), is amended by amending Subsections (c), (e), and (g) and by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

(c) Each commission shall institute and carry out a continuing survey of the county to determine the existence of historical buildings and other historical sites, private collections of historical memorabilia, or other historical features within the county, and shall report the data collected to the Commissioners Court and the Texas Historical Commission. *The commission shall compile the data in a county register of historical places and memorabilia.*

(e) The commission shall make recommendations to the Commissioners Court and the Texas Historical Commission concerning the acquisition of property, real or personal, which is of historical significance. *The commission, with the approval of the Commissioners Court, may designate as a historical trail any road or highway route that links historical sites in the county and may designate certain areas of the county as special areas of historical interest.*

(g) In addition to the powers already conferred on it by law, the Commissioners Court of each county of this state may *make agreements with governmental agencies or private organizations and may appropriate funds from the general fund of the county for the purpose of:*

(1) erecting historical markers, monuments, and medallions;

(2) purchasing objects and collections of objects of any kind which are historically significant to the county; and

(3) preparing, publishing, and disseminating, by sale or otherwise, a history of the county.

(i) The Commissioners Court may establish a program by which:

(1) the commission receives and reviews applications that are filed with the county and that request a property tax exemption under Section 11.24, Tax Code;

(2) the commission recommends to the Commissioners Court whether to grant the exemption and, if the grant of the exemption is recommended, how much of the property's assessed value should be exempt from taxation;

(3) the commission may examine property that is granted the exemption and recommend to the Commissioners Court whether the exemption should be withdrawn because of changed circumstances involving the property;

(4) a person may appear before the Commissioners Court and state any objections he may have to a recommendation made by the commission under Subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection regarding the property owned by the person; and

(5) a person whose property is granted the exemption shall notify the commission of any plans the person may have to modernize the property or change it in any other manner.

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 17, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 26, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 12, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985