

- SUBJECT:** Effective date of an age-65-or-older homestead exemption
- COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Oliveira, McCall, Bonnen, Craddick, Y. Davis, Heflin, Keffer, T. King, Ramsay
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Hilbert, Sadler
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 26 — voice vote
- WITNESSES:** For — Richard Petree and Jim Robinson, Texas Association of Appraisal Districts
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Individuals aged 65 and older are entitled to a \$10,000 homestead exemption, which applies against the appraised value of the home, in addition to the state's mandatory \$15,000 exemption. Local taxing units may at their option apply additional exemptions.
- Before 1997, the exemption for elderly homeowners applied beginning on January 1 of the tax year following the person's 65th birthday and applied for the whole year. Under current law, the exemption is prorated based on the birth date of the individual for the tax year during which the individual first qualifies for the exemption.
- DIGEST:** SB 1461 would make the age-65-or-older exemption effective as of January 1 of the tax year during which the person turned 65.
- The bill would take effect January 1, 2000, and would apply only to taxes imposed for a tax year that began on or after that date.

SB 1461
House Research Organization
page 2

SUPPORTERS
SAY: SB 1461 would allow senior citizens to claim the \$10,000 homestead exemption during the entire year that they turn 65, which was the intent of the 1997 legislation. It also would eliminate the administrative headache that prorating has caused appraisers.

OPPONENTS
SAY: No apparent opposition.