

**SUBJECT:** Requiring creation of protest hearing information databases

**COMMITTEE:** Ways & Means — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 11 ayes — Meyer, Thierry, Button, Craddick, Gervin-Hawkins, Hefner, Muñoz, Noble, Raymond, Shine, Turner

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — Dale Craymer, Texas Taxpayers and Research Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kevin Hale, Libertarian Party of Texas; Charlotte Blakemore and Jim Popp, Popp Hutcheson PLLC; Matt Grabner, Ryan, LLC; Ray Head, Texas Association of Property Tax Professionals; Crystal Brown, Texas Building Owners and Managers Association; James LeBas, Texas Chemical Council and Texas Association of Manufacturers)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Susan Stewart)

On — Marya Crigler, Texas Association of Appraisal Districts (*Registered, but did not testify*: Allison Mansfield and Brad Reynolds, Comptroller of Public Accounts)

**DIGEST:** CSHB 796 would require the chief appraiser of each appraisal district to create and maintain a publicly available and searchable Internet database of information regarding protest hearings conducted by the district's appraisal review board. The chief appraiser would be required to update the database no later than October 1 of each year. The database could include information for protests from years preceding the 2024 tax year.

The bill would require the database to contain for each protest hearing conducted by the appraisal review board:

- the name of each attending board member;
- the date and time of the hearing;
- the account number and category of the property being heard;

- the appraised value of the property according to the appraisal board and the property owner's asserted value of the property;
- the board's determination of the protest.

The bill would require the chief appraiser to include a link to the protest hearing database on the county property tax database website.

The bill would require the chief appraiser of each appraisal district to create and make publicly available such a database no later than the effective date of the bill.

The bill would take effect January 1, 2024.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

CSHB 796 would make the appraisal process more transparent by providing Texans with better access to information about appraisal protest hearings.

**CRITICS  
SAY:**

No concerns identified.