residential property that is in the same neighborhood as the residence homestead being appraised and would otherwise be considered in appraising the residence homestead because the other residential property:

(1) was sold at a foreclosure sale conducted in any of the three years preceding the tax year in which the residence homestead is being appraised and was comparable at the time of sale based on relevant characteristics with other residence homesteads in the same neighborhood; or

(2) has a market value that has declined because of a declining economy.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2010.

Passed by the House on March 31, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective January 1, 2010.

CHAPTER 620

H.B. No. 1063

AN ACT

relating to emergency vehicle access to certain gated communities and multiunit housing projects.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 352, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 352.1145 to read as follows:

Sec. 352.1145. SIREN-OPERATED SENSOR SYSTEMS FOR ELECTRIC GATES. The commissioners court of a county by order may require that each electric gate to a gated community or multiunit housing project be equipped with a gate-operating device that:

(1) is approved by the county fire marshal or other similar authority having jurisdiction over fire prevention; and

(2) will activate the electric gate on the sounding of an emergency vehicle siren.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 30, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 27, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 621

H.B. No. 1083

AN ACT

relating to mediation orders in certain arbitration proceedings.

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

SECTION 1. Section 154.021, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) Except as provided by agreement of the parties, a court may not order mediation in an action that is subject to the Federal Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. Sections 1–16).

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an action that is commenced on or after the effective date of this Act. An action that is commenced before the
effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on May 11, 2009: Yeas 141, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 27, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 622

H.B. No. 1187

AN ACT

relating to the membership of the board of managers for certain emergency communication districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 772.306, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subsection (o) to read as follows:

(o) In an emergency communication district subject to this subchapter located entirely in a county with a population of less than 30,000, the board consists of:

(1) the appropriate members listed in Subsection (c); and

(2) a peace officer licensed under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, appointed by the county sheriff.

SECTION 2. The sheriff of a county to which Section 772.306(o), Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, applies shall appoint a peace officer to the board of managers as required by Section 772.306(o) as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on May 5, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 623

H.B. No. 1230

AN ACT

relating to limitations on the compensation of county auditors for certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 152.032(d), Local Government Code, as amended by Chapters 401 (S.B. 833), 430 (S.B. 1630), and 1260 (H.B. 2917), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(d) The amount of the compensation and allowances of a county auditor in a county subject to this subsection may be set in an amount that exceeds the limit established by [in]