

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Cortes, B. offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Remove lines 490-491 and insert:

5 (a) The contractor may only contact persons claiming a
6 homestead exemption with the written approval of, and in a
7 manner prescribed by, the property appraiser. The contractor
8 must notify the person claiming the homestead exemption that the
9 contractor has been contracted by the property appraiser as a
10 third party to examine or audit homestead tax exemptions. The
11 contractor must notify the person claiming the homestead
12 exemption that if the person has questions, the person should
13 contact the property appraiser. The contractor must provide the

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14 property appraiser's contact information. In addition, the
15 contractor may not:

16 1. Falsely personate a governmental official.

17 2. Communicate with the person between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m.
18 in the person's time zone without the person's prior consent.

19 3. Suggest, communicate, or threaten that the person owes
20 any money.

21 4. Disclose or threaten to disclose any information that
22 is not a public record to a person other than the person
23 claiming the homestead exemption, the person's authorized
24 representative, an adult occupant of the property receiving the
25 homestead exemption, the property appraiser, or the property
26 appraiser's agents or employees.

27 5. Publish or post, threaten to publish or post, or cause
28 to be published or posted to the general public, any individual
29 names or list of names.

30
31 A person claiming a homestead exemption may bring an action
32 against a contractor who violates this paragraph in the county
33 in which the contractor resides or in the county in which the
34 alleged violation occurred. If the court determines that a
35 violation has occurred, the contractor is liable for actual
36 damages and for any other statutory damages authorized under law
37 and as the court may allow. In determining the contractor's
38 liability for additional statutory damages, the court shall
39 consider the nature of the contractor's noncompliance, the

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40 frequency and persistence of the noncompliance, and the extent
41 to which the noncompliance was intentional.

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

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Remove line 41 and insert:

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must be included in the contract; authorizing a person

47

claiming a homestead exemption to bring a cause action

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against the property appraiser's contractor if the

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contractor engages in specified proscribed conduct;

50

authorizing the

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