

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R5440 SMH-D

S.B. 541
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently a local appraisal district may post photographs of individuals' homes and property along with detailed floor plans on the Internet. Numerous ranchers and owners are concerned about the safety of their families and property due to photographs of their residential properties being posted on the web. This is a concern because thieves and vandals may access this detailed information and this dramatically increases the vulnerability of the property; especially second homes such as ranches or lake houses, where the owners are not present all the time. As proposed, S.B. 541 makes it illegal for appraisal districts to put photographs and floor plans of residences or property on the Internet.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 25, Tax Code, by adding Section 25.027, as follows:

Sec. 25.027. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. Provides that the information in appraisal records is confidential and is available only for the official use of the appraisal district, this state, the comptroller, and taxing units and political subdivisions of this state if the information is a photograph of an improvement to real property that meets certain criteria. Provides that this section is inapplicable to an aerial photograph that depicts five or more separately owned buildings

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2005.