CHAPTER 715

H.B. No. 3439

AN ACT
relating to the representation of a property owner by an agent in a property tax matter.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1.11(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) To be effective, a request made under this section must be filed with the appraisal district. A request remains in effect until revoked by a written revocation filed with the appraisal district by the owner or the owner's designated agent.

SECTION 2. Sections 1.111(c) and (i), Tax Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) The designation of an agent under this section remains in effect until revoked in a written revocation filed with the appraisal district by the property owner or designated agent. The designated agent revoking the designation must send notice of the revocation by certified mail to the property owner at the owner's last known address. A designation may be made to expire according to its own terms but is still subject to prior revocation by the property owner or designated agent. 

(i) An appraisal review board shall accept and consider a motion or protest filed by an agent of a property owner if an agency authorization is filed at or before the hearing on the motion or protest. [If an appraisal review board designates a time and place for appearance before a hearing, an agency authorization is considered to be filed at or before the hearing if a copy of the authorization is filed at the time and place designated by the board.]

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 8, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 22, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 716

H.B. No. 3483

AN ACT
relating to requirements for a driver education course, the eligibility of persons under 18 years of age to operate a motor vehicle, and the administration of certain driver's license examinations by home-taught driver education course providers.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1001.101, Education Code, as amended by Chapters 1253 (H.B. 339) and 1413 (S.B. 1317), Acts of the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1001.101. ADULT AND MINOR DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOKS. (a) The commissioner by rule shall establish or approve the curriculum and designate the textbooks to be used in a driver education course for minors and adults, including a driver education course conducted by a school district, driver education school, or parent or other individual under Section 521.205, Transportation Code.

(b) A driver education course must require the student to complete:

(1) 7 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction in the presence of a person who holds a driver education instructor license or who meets the requirements imposed under Section 521.205, Transportation Code;
(2) 7 hours of observation instruction in the presence of a person who holds a driver education instructor license or who meets the requirements imposed under Section 521.205, Transportation Code; and

(3) 30 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction, including at least 10 hours of instruction that takes place at night, in the presence of an adult who meets the requirements of Section 521.222(d)(2), Transportation Code.

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 521.1655, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 521.1655. TESTING BY DRIVER EDUCATION SCHOOL AND CERTAIN DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE PROVIDERS.

SECTION 3. Section 521.1655, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) A driver education course provider approved under Section 521.205 may administer to a student of that course the highway sign and traffic law parts of the examination required by Section 521.161.

SECTION 4. Section 521.205(c), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The rules must provide a method by which:

(1) approval of a course is obtained;

(2) an applicant submits proof of completion of the course; and

(3) approval for delivering course materials by an alternative method, including electronic means, is obtained;

(4) a provider of a course approved under this section may administer the highway sign and traffic law parts of the examination as provided by Section 521.1655(a-1) through electronic means; and

(5) an applicant submits proof of passage of an examination administered under Subdivision (4).

SECTION 5. Section 545.424(a-1), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a-1) A person under 18 years of age may not operate a motor vehicle during the 12-month period following issuance of an original Class A, B, or C driver's license to the person:

1. after midnight and before 5 a.m. unless the operation of the vehicle is necessary for the operator to attend or participate in employment or a school-related activity or because of a medical emergency; or

2. with more than one passenger in the vehicle under 21 years of age who is not a family member.

SECTION 6. The change in law made by Section 1001.101(b), Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a driver education course that begins on or after the effective date of this Act. A course that begins before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the course began, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 7. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt the rules required by Section 521.205, Transportation Code, as amended by this Act, not later than January 1, 2014.

SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 2, 2013: Yeas 145, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3483 on May 23, 2013: Yeas 137, Nays 8, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2013: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.