



**State of Arkansas
Department of Finance and Administration
Fiscal Impact Statement**

Bill: HB1565

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF A COUNTY PROPERTY ASSESSOR; AND TO PERMIT A PROPERTY OWNER TO OPT OUT OF HAVING THE PROPERTY OWNER'S INFORMATION POSTED ON AN ONLINE DATABASE.

Sponsors:

Rep. R. Burkes and Sen. Crowell

Basic Change:

HB1565 provides a property owner with the right to opt out of having his or her information included in an online database of property records maintained by a county assessor. County assessors and tax collectors currently utilize online services to allow access to property records.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Taxpayer Impact:

A taxpayer will be able to file a form with the county assessor to request that his or her property record be omitted from the assessor's online search database.

Resources Required:

The Assessment Coordination Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (ACD) may promulgate rules to create and maintain the form necessary to submit a request to opt out of an online database. Education and outreach to county officials, software providers, and taxpayers will be required.

Time Required:

Adequate time is provided for implementation.

Procedural Changes:

County officials will need to develop office policies for handling taxpayer requests.

Other Comments:

The proposed legislation does not include the county tax collector's office. A county collector publishes records for taxpayers to pay property taxes online and receive copies of tax receipts. County property tax information is generally considered a matter of public record. HB1565 states that ACD may promulgate rules to create the opt out form. However, it is not clear if HB1565 is requesting that all taxpayer requests be maintained by ACD or if each county is responsible for processing taxpayer requests and ensuring that records no longer appear in the county's online database.



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Legal Analysis:

None.