



96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB6896

by Rep. Tom Cross - Jim Durkin - Sidney H. Mathias

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

35 ILCS 200/3-70 new
35 ILCS 200/6-65 new

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that the Cook County Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review shall each maintain a public log detailing ex parte communications involving property tax appeals. Provides that any ex parte communications received by the Cook County Board of Review or the Cook County Assessor must be transmitted to the appropriate ethics officer. Provides that the ethics officer must make the communication a part of the record of the appeal or assessment. Defines ex parte communication. Effective immediately.

LRB096 23175 HLH 42517 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning revenue.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Property Tax Code is amended by adding
5 Sections 3-70 and 6-65 as follows:

6 (35 ILCS 200/3-70 new)

7 Sec. 3-70. Cook County Assessor; ex parte communication.

8 The Cook County Assessor shall maintain a public log detailing
9 all ex parte communications involving the Cook County
10 Assessor's office. The log shall indicate (i) the date, nature,
11 and substance of all ex parte communications received by the
12 office, (ii) the identity and job title of the person in the
13 Assessor's office to whom each communication was made, (iii)
14 the date and nature of the response made by the Assessor's
15 office and the identity and job title of the person making the
16 response, (iv) the identity of the party making the
17 communication and, if applicable, the identity of the
18 individual or entity represented by that person, (v) any action
19 requested, and (vi) any other pertinent information. In
20 addition, any ex parte communications involving the Cook County
21 Assessor's office must be immediately reported to the office's
22 ethics officer, and the ethics officer must make the
23 communication a part of the record of the appeal or assessment.

1 For purposes of this Section, "ex parte communication"
2 means any written or oral communication made by any person
3 during an appeal to the Cook County Assessor that imparts or
4 requests material information related to that appeal or makes a
5 material argument regarding potential action of the Assessor
6 that is communicated to the Cook County Assessor or to an
7 employee of the Cook County Assessor's office. "Ex parte
8 communication" does not include (i) statements made in a public
9 forum; (ii) statements regarding matters of procedure and
10 practice, such as the format of public comments, the number of
11 copies required, the manner of filing public comments, or the
12 status of an appeal or assessment; or (iii) statements made by
13 the Cook County Assessor or an employee of the Cook County
14 Assessor's office.

15 (35 ILCS 200/6-65 new)

16 Sec. 6-65. Cook County Board of Review; ex parte
17 communication. The Cook County Board of Review shall maintain a
18 public log detailing all ex parte communications involving the
19 Board. The log shall indicate (i) the date, nature, and
20 substance of all ex parte communications received by the Board,
21 (ii) the identity and job title of the Board member or employee
22 to whom each communication was made, (iii) the date and nature
23 of the response made by the Board and the identity and job
24 title of the person making the response, (iv) the identity of
25 the party making the communication and, if applicable, the

1 identity of the individual or entity represented by that
2 person, (v) any action requested, and (vi) any other pertinent
3 information. In addition, any ex parte communications
4 involving the Cook County Board of Review must be immediately
5 reported to the Board's ethics officer, and the ethics officer
6 must make the communication a part of the record of the appeal.

7 For purposes of this Section, "ex parte communication"
8 means any written or oral communication made by any person
9 during an appeal to the Cook County Board of Review that
10 imparts or requests material information related to that appeal
11 or makes a material argument regarding potential action of the
12 Board of Review that is communicated to the Board or to an
13 employee of the Board. "Ex parte communication" does not
14 include (i) statements made in a public forum; (ii) statements
15 regarding matters of procedure and practice, such as the format
16 of public comments, the number of copies required, the manner
17 of filing public comments, or the status of an appeal or
18 assessment; or (iii) statements made by a member of the Cook
19 County Board of Review or an employee of the Board.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law.