

CHAPTER 2015-87

House Bill No. 213

An act relating to property appraisers; amending s. 195.087, F.S.; specifying that a property appraiser's operating budget is final and shall be funded by the county commission once the Department of Revenue makes its final budget amendments; specifying that the county commission remains obligated to fund the department's final property appraiser's operating budget during the pendency of an appeal to the Administration Commission; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 195.087, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

195.087 Property appraisers and tax collectors to submit budgets to Department of Revenue.—

(1)(a) On or before June 1 of each year, every property appraiser, regardless of the form of county government, shall submit to the Department of Revenue a budget for the operation of the property appraiser's office for the ensuing fiscal year beginning October 1. The property appraiser shall submit his or her budget in the manner and form required by the department. A copy of such budget shall be furnished at the same time to the board of county commissioners. The department shall, upon proper notice to the county commission and property appraiser, review the budget request and may amend or change the budget request as it deems necessary, in order that the budget be neither inadequate nor excessive. On or before July 15, the department shall notify the property appraiser and the board of county commissioners of its tentative budget amendments and changes. Before ~~Prior to~~ August 15, the property appraiser and the board of county commissioners may submit additional information or testimony to the department respecting the budget. On or before August 15, the department shall make its final budget amendments or changes to the budget and shall provide notice thereof to the property appraiser and board of county commissioners. Once the department makes its final budget amendments, the budget is final and shall be funded by the county commission pursuant to s. 192.091.

(b) The Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Administration Commission, may hear appeals from the final action of the department upon a written request being filed by the property appraiser or the presiding officer of the county commission no later than 15 days after the conclusion of the hearing held pursuant to s. 200.065(2)(d). The filing of an appeal does not relieve the county commission of its obligation to fund the department-approved final budget during the pendency of the appeal. The Administration Commission may amend the budget if it finds that any aspect of the

budget is unreasonable in light of the workload of the office of the property appraiser in the county under review. The budget request as approved by the department and as amended by the commission shall become the operating budget of the property appraiser for the ensuing fiscal year beginning October 1, except that the budget so approved may subsequently be amended under the same procedure. After final approval, the property appraiser shall make no transfer of funds between accounts without the written approval of the department. However, all moneys received by property appraisers in complying with chapter 119 shall be accounted for in the same manner as provided for in s. 218.36, for moneys received as county fees and commissions, and any such moneys may be used and expended in the same manner and to the same extent as funds budgeted for the office and no budget amendment shall be required.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2015.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2015.