
CHAPTER 386—H.F.No.585

[Coded in Part]

An act relating to taxation; altering definitions of "income" for senior citizen's property tax freeze purposes; "taxes", "alimony" and "investment company" for income tax purposes; allowing commissioner of revenue to disregard small amounts due or penalties and to require withholding of delinquent taxes by employees; providing for tax lien on personal property; amending Minnesota Statutes 1976, Sections 273.012, Subdivision 3; 290.06, Subdivision 2c; 290.09, Subdivisions 4 and 14; 290.21, Subdivision 3; 290.36; 290.54; 290.92, by adding a subdivision; 290.934, Subdivision 5; and 290A.06.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 273.012, Subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **TAXATION; SENIOR CITIZEN'S PROPERTY TAX FREEZE.** The percentage of the excess of current tax over the base tax allowed as a credit shall be 100 percent for incomes up to and including \$10,000 and shall decline 5 percentage points for each additional \$500 of income or portion thereof over \$10,000. "Income" means income of the qualified homeowner and spouse domiciled in the same homestead as defined in section 290A.03, subdivision 3.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290.06, Subdivision 2c, is amended to read:

Subd. 2c. **SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR INDIVIDUALS, ESTATES AND TRUSTS.** (a) For taxable years beginning after December 31, 1971, the income taxes imposed by this chapter upon individuals, estates and trusts, other than those taxable as corporations, shall be computed by applying to their taxable net income in excess of the applicable credits allowed by section 290.21, the following schedule of rates:

- (1) On the first \$500, one and six-tenths percent;
- (2) On the second \$500, two and two-tenths percent;
- (3) On the next \$1,000, three and five-tenths percent;
- (4) On the next \$1,000, five and eight-tenths percent;
- (5) On the next \$1,000, seven and three-tenths percent;
- (6) On the next \$1,000, eight and eight-tenths percent;
- (7) On the next \$2,000, ten and two-tenths percent;

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- (8) On the next \$2,000, eleven and five-tenths percent;
- (9) On the next \$3,500, twelve and eight-tenths percent;
- (10) On all over \$12,500, and not over \$20,000, fourteen percent;
- (11) On the remainder, fifteen percent.

(b) In lieu of a tax computed according to the rates set forth in clause (a) of this subdivision, the tax of any individual taxpayer whose taxable net income for the taxable year, reduced by the applicable credits allowed by section 290.21, is less than \$10,000 shall be computed in accordance with tables prepared and issued by the commissioner of revenue based on income brackets of not more than \$100. The amount of tax for each bracket shall be computed at the rates set forth in this subdivision, provided that the commissioner may disregard a fractional part of a dollar unless it amounts to 50 cents or more, in which case it may be increased to \$1.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290.09, Subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. TAXES. Taxes paid or accrued within the taxable year, except (a) income or franchise taxes imposed by this chapter; and income or franchise taxes paid to any other state for which a credit is allowed under section 290.081; (b) taxes assessed against local benefits of a kind deemed in law to increase the value of the property assessed; (c) inheritance, gift and estate taxes except as provided in section 290.077, subdivision 4; (d) cigarette and tobacco products excise tax imposed on the consumer; (e) that part of Minnesota property taxes for which a credit or refund is claimed and allowed under section 290.0603 or 290.066; (f) federal income taxes, by corporations, national and state banks except as provided in section 290.18; and (g) tax paid by any corporation or *national or state bank to any foreign country or possession of the United States to the extent that a credit against federal income taxes is allowed under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended through December 31, 1974. If the taxpayer's foreign tax credit consists of both foreign taxes deemed paid and foreign taxes actually paid or withheld, it will be conclusively presumed that foreign taxes deemed paid were first used by the taxpayer in its foreign tax credit. Minnesota gross income shall include the amount of foreign tax paid which had been allowed as a deduction in a previous year, provided such foreign tax is later allowed as a credit against federal income tax. Income taxes permitted to be deducted hereunder shall, regardless of the methods of accounting employed, be deductible only in the taxable year in which paid. Taxes imposed upon a shareholder's interest in a corporation which are paid by the corporation without reimbursement from the shareholder shall be deductible only by such corporation.*

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290.09, Subdivision 14, is amended to read:

Subd. 14. ALIMONY. Periodic payments to a wife who is divorced or separated from her husband by order of court or by decree of divorce or separate maintenance; periodic payments to a wife, who is separated from her husband, made under a written separation agreement; and periodic payments to a wife separated from her husband under

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a decree requiring the husband to make payments for her support or maintenance, received in discharge of, or attributable to property transferred in trust or otherwise in discharge of, a legal obligation imposed on the husband by such decree or by written instrument incident to such divorce or separation, shall be deductible from gross income of the husband except to the extent they are excluded from his gross income as provided in section 290.072, subdivision 2. The term "periodic payments" as used in this subdivision shall not include that part of any amount which is fixed by order of court or by the decree or written instrument as payable for the support of minor children of the husband. To the extent of the amount so fixed, the entire amount of such payment, if less than the total amount payable, shall be considered as payable for the support of minor children. Installment payments of lump sum obligations fixed in the decree or written instrument shall not be considered periodic payments under this subdivision, unless the total amount is to be paid within a period ending more than ten years from the date of the decree or instrument, and then only to the extent that installment payments paid during the taxable year do not exceed ten percent of the total amount so fixed. The amount of alimony payments which are allowed as a deduction under section 215 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended through December 31, 1976.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290.21, Subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. An amount for contribution or gifts made within the taxable year:

(a) to or for the use of the state of Minnesota, or any of its political subdivisions for exclusively public purposes,

(b) to or for the use of any community chest, corporation, organization, trust, fund, association, or foundation located in and carrying on substantially all of its activities within this state, organized and operating exclusively for religious, charitable, public cemetery, scientific, literary, artistic, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual,

(c) to a fraternal society, order, or association, operating under the lodge system located in and carrying on substantially all of their activities within this state if such contributions or gifts are to be used exclusively for the purposes specified in subdivision 3(b), or for or to posts or organizations of war veterans or auxiliary units or societies of such posts or organizations, if they are within the state and no part of their net income inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, or to an employee stock ownership trust as defined in section 290.01, subdivision 25. Where the beneficiaries of a stock ownership trust include the transferor, his spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings or their children, the amount of the deduction shall be reduced by the product of multiplying said amount by their percentage interest in the trust,

(d) to or for the use of the United States of America for exclusively public purposes, and to or for the use of any community chest, corporation, trust, fund, association, or foundation, organized and operated exclusively for any of the purposes specified in subdivision 3(b) and (c) no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, but not carrying on substantially all of

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their activities within this state, in an amount equal to the ratio of Minnesota taxable net income to total net income, provided, however, that for an individual taxpayer, the credit shall be allowed in an amount equal to the ratio of the taxpayer's gross income from sources within the state to the taxpayer's gross income from all sources,

(e) to a political party, as defined in section 200.02, subdivision 7, or a political candidate, as defined in section 210A.01, or a political cause when sponsored by any party or association or committee, as defined in section 210A.01, in a maximum amount not to exceed the following:

(1) contributions made by individual natural persons, \$100.

(2) contributions made by a national committeeman, national committeewoman, state chairman, or state chairwoman of a political party, as defined in section 200.02, subdivision 7, \$1,000.

(3) contributions made by a congressional district committeeman or committeewoman of a political party, as defined in section 200.02, subdivision 7.

(4) contributions made by a county chairman or a county chairwoman of a political party, as defined in section 200.02, subdivision 7, \$150.

(f) in the case of an individual, the total credit against taxable net income allowable hereunder shall not exceed 30 percent of the taxpayer's Minnesota gross income as follows:

(i) the aggregate of contributions made to organizations specified in (a), (b) and (d) shall not exceed ten percent of the taxpayer's Minnesota gross income,

(ii) the total credits under this subparagraph for any taxable year shall not exceed 20 percent of the taxpayer's Minnesota gross income. For purposes of this subparagraph, the credits under this section shall be computed without regard to any deduction allowed under subparagraph (i) but shall take into account any contributions described in subparagraph (i) which are in excess of the amount allowable as a credit under subparagraph (i);

(g) in the case of a corporation, the total credit against net income hereunder shall not exceed 15 percent of the taxpayer's taxable net income less the credits allowable under this section other than those for contributions or gifts,

(h) in the case of a corporation reporting its taxable income on the accrual basis, if: (A) the board of directors authorizes a charitable contribution during any taxable year, and (B) payment of such contribution is made after the close of such taxable year and on or before the fifteenth day of the third month following the close of such taxable year; then the taxpayer may elect to treat such contribution as paid during such taxable year. The election may be made only at the time of the filing of the return for such taxable year, and shall be signified in such manner as the commissioner shall by regulations prescribe.

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Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290.36, is amended to read:

290.36 INVESTMENT COMPANIES; REPORT OF NET INCOME; COMPUTATION OF AMOUNT OF INCOME ALLOCABLE TO STATE. The taxable net income of investment companies shall be computed and be exclusively as follows:

Each investment company transacting business as such in this state shall report to the commissioner the net income returned by the company for the taxable year to the United States under the provisions of the act of congress known as the revenue act of 1936 Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended through December 31, 1976, less the credits provided therein, or the net income that such company would be required to return under such act less such credits, if such act were in effect. The commissioner shall compute therefrom the taxable net income of the investment company by assigning to this state that proportion of such net income, less such credits which the aggregate of the gross payments collected by the company during the taxable year from old and new business upon investment contracts issued by the company and held by residents of this state, bears to the total amount of the gross payments collected during such year by the company from such business upon investment contracts issued by the company and held by persons residing within the state and elsewhere.

As used in this section, the term "investment company" means any person, co-partnership, association, or corporation, whether local or foreign, coming within the purview of section 54.26, and who or which is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 and following), and who or which solicits or receives payments to be made to himself or itself and which issues therefor, or has issued therefor and has or shall have outstanding so-called bonds, shares, coupons, certificates of membership, or other evidences of obligation or agreement or pretended agreement to return to the holders or owners thereof money or anything of value at some future date; and as to whom the gross payments received during the taxable year in question upon outstanding investment contracts, plus interest and dividends earned on investment contracts determined by prorating the total dividends and interest for the taxable year in question in the same proportion that certificate reserves as defined by the Investment Company Act of 1940 is to total assets, shall be at least 50 percent of the company's gross payments upon investment contracts plus gross income from all other sources except dividends from subsidiaries for the taxable year in question. The term "investment contract" shall mean any such so-called bonds, shares, coupons, certificates of membership, or other evidences of obligation or agreement or pretended agreement issued by an investment company.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290.54, is amended to read:

290.54 TAX A PERSONAL DEBT. The tax imposed by this chapter, and interest and penalties imposed with respect thereto, shall become a personal debt of the taxpayer from the time the liability therefor arises, irrespective of when the time for discharging such liability by payment occurs. The debt shall, in the case of the personal representative of the estate of a decedent and in the case of any fiduciary, be that of such person in his official or fiduciary capacity only unless he shall have voluntarily distributed the assets held in such capacity without reserving sufficient assets to pay such tax, interest, and

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penalties, in which event he shall be personally liable for any deficiency. This provision shall apply only to cases in which this state is legally competent to impose such personal liability.

The tax imposed by this chapter, and interest and penalties imposed with respect thereto, shall become a lien upon all of the real property, both real and personal, of the taxpayer within this state, except his homestead, from and after the filing by the commissioner of a notice of such lien in the office of the county recorder of the county in which such real property is situated, or in the case of personal property belonging to an individual who is not a resident of this state, or which is a corporation, partnership, or other organization, in the office of the secretary of state.

The lien created under this section shall become effective with respect to personal property from and after the date of filing by the commissioner of a notice of such lien describing the property to which the lien attaches in the office of the county recorder of the county in which the commissioner believes the property is located at the time such lien is filed, and with the secretary of state.

The lien imposed on personal property by this section, even though properly filed, shall not be valid as against a purchaser with respect to tangible personal property purchased at retail or as against the personal property listed as exempt in sections 550.37, 550.38, and 550.39.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290.92, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 23. WITHHOLDING BY EMPLOYER OF DELINQUENT TAXES. (1)
The commissioner may give notice to any employer deriving income which has a taxable situs in this state regardless of whether the income is exempt from taxation, that an employee of that employer is delinquent in a certain amount with respect to any state taxes, including penalties, interest and costs. The commissioner can proceed under this subdivision only if the tax is uncontested or if the time for appeal of the tax has expired. The commissioner shall not proceed under this subdivision until the expiration of 30 days after mailing to the taxpayer, at his last known address, a written notice of (a) the amount of taxes, interest, and penalties due from the taxpayer and demand for their payment, and (b) the commissioner's intention to require additional withholding by the taxpayer's employer pursuant to this subdivision. The effect of the notice shall expire 90 days after it has been mailed to the taxpayer provided that the notice may be renewed by mailing a new notice which is in accordance with this subdivision. The renewed notice shall have the effect of reinstating the priority of the original claim. The notice to the taxpayer shall be in substantially the same form as that provided in section 571.41. The notice shall further inform the taxpayer of the wage exemptions contained in section 550.37, subdivision 14. If no statement of exemption is received by the commissioner within 30 days from the mailing of the notice, he may proceed under this subdivision. The notice to the taxpayer's employer may be served by mail or by delivery by an employee of the department of revenue and shall be in substantially the same form as provided in section 571.495. Upon receipt of notice, the employer shall withhold from compensation due or to become due to the employee, the total amount shown by the notice, subject to the

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provisions of section 571.55. The employer shall continue to withhold each pay period until the total amount shown by the notice is paid in full. Upon receipt of notice by the employer, the claim of the state of Minnesota shall have priority over any subsequent garnishments or wage assignments. The commissioner may arrange between the employer and the employee for withholding a portion of the total amount due the employee each pay period, until the total amount shown by the notice plus accrued interest has been withheld.

The "compensation due" any employee is defined in accordance with the provisions of section 571.55. The maximum withholding allowed under this subdivision for any one pay period shall be decreased by any amounts payable pursuant to a garnishment action with respect to which the employer was served prior to being served with the notice of delinquency and any amounts covered by any irrevocable and previously effective assignment of wages; the employer shall give notice to the department of the amounts and the facts relating to such assignments within ten days after the service of the notice of delinquency on the form provided by the department of revenue as noted in this subdivision. In crediting amounts withheld against delinquent taxes of an employee, the department shall apply amounts withheld in the following order: penalties, interest, tax and costs.

(2) If the employee ceases to be employed by the employer before the full amount set forth in a notice of delinquency plus accrued interest has been withheld, the employer shall immediately notify the commissioner in writing of the termination date of the employee and the total amount withheld. No employer may discharge any employee by reason of the fact that the commissioner has proceeded under this subdivision. If an employer discharges an employee in violation of this provision, the employee shall have the same remedy as provided in section 571.61, subdivision 2.

(3) The employer shall, by the date prescribed in subdivision 6, remit to the commissioner, on a form and in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, the amount withheld during the calendar quarter under this subdivision. Should any employer, after notice, willfully fail to withhold in accordance with the notice and this subdivision, or willfully fail to remit any amount withheld as required by this subdivision, the employer shall be liable for the total amount set forth in the notice together with accrued interest which may be collected by any means provided by law relating to taxation. No amount required to be paid by an employer by reason of his failure to remit under this subdivision, may be deducted from the gross income of the employer, under sections 290.09, subdivision 4 or 290.01, subdivision 20. Any amount collected from the employer for failure to withhold or for failure to remit under this subdivision shall be credited to the employee's account in the following manner: penalties, interest, tax and costs.

(4) Clauses (1), (2) and (3), except provisions imposing a liability on the employer for failure to withhold or remit, shall apply to cases in which the employer is the United States or any instrumentality thereof or this state or any municipality or other subordinate unit thereof.

(5) The commissioner shall refund to the employee excess amounts withheld from him under this subdivision. If any excess results from payments by the employer because

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of willful failure to withhold or remit as prescribed in clause (3) above, the excess attributable to the employer's payment shall be refunded to the employer.

(6) Employers required to withhold delinquent taxes, penalties, interest and costs under this subdivision shall not be required to compute any additional interest, costs or other charges to be withheld.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290.934, Subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. DEFINITION OF TAX. For purposes of subdivisions 2 and 4(2), the term "tax" means the excess of

(1) the tax imposed by section 290.06, over

(2) the sum of

(A) \$1,000, and,

(B) the credits against tax provided in section 290.21. The term "tax" means the excess of the tax imposed by chapter 290 over \$1,000.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 290A.06, is amended to read:

290A.06 FILING TIME LIMIT, LATE FILING. Any claim for property taxes payable shall be filed with the department of revenue on or before August 31 of the year in which the property taxes are due and payable. The commissioner may extend the time for filing these claims for a period not to exceed six months in the case of sickness, absence, or other disability, or when in his judgment other good cause exists.

A claim filed after the original or extended due date shall be allowed, but the amount of credit shall be reduced by five percent of the amount otherwise allowable, plus an additional five percent for each month of delinquency, not exceeding a total reduction of 25 percent which may be cancelled or reduced by the commissioner in the case of sickness, absence, or other disability, or when in his judgment other good cause exists. In any event no claim shall be allowed if the claim is filed two years after the original due date for filing the claim.

Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 1 shall be effective for claims based on property taxes payable in 1978 and subsequent years. Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 shall be effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1976. Sections 7 and 8 shall be effective July 1, 1977. Section 10 shall be effective the day following its final enactment.

Approved June 2, 1977.

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