

A bill for an act

relating to taxation; specifying duties of assessors; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 82B.035, subdivision 2; 270.41, subdivision 5; 273.061, subdivisions 7, 8.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 82B.035, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Assessors.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as requiring the licensing of persons employed and acting in their capacity as assessors for political subdivisions of the state and performing duties enumerated in section 273.061, subdivision 7 or 8.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment for testimony offered and opinions or reports prepared in cases or proceedings that have not been finally resolved.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 270.41, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Prohibited activity.** A licensed assessor or other person employed by an assessment jurisdiction or contracting with an assessment jurisdiction for the purpose of valuing or classifying property for property tax purposes is prohibited from making appraisals or analyses, accepting an appraisal assignment, or preparing an appraisal report as defined in section 82B.02, subdivisions 2 to 5, on any property within the assessment jurisdiction where the individual is employed or performing the duties of the assessor under contract. Violation of this prohibition shall result in immediate revocation of the individual's license to assess property for property tax purposes. This prohibition must not be construed to prohibit an individual from carrying out any duties required for the

proper assessment of property for property tax purposes or performing duties enumerated in section 273.061, subdivision 7 or 8. If a formal resolution has been adopted by the governing body of a governmental unit, which specifies the purposes for which such work will be done, this prohibition does not apply to appraisal activities undertaken on behalf of and at the request of the governmental unit that has employed or contracted with the individual. The resolution may only allow appraisal activities which are related to condemnations, right-of-way acquisitions, or special assessments.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment for testimony offered and opinions or reports prepared in cases or proceedings that have not been finally resolved.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 273.061, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Division of duties between local and county assessor.** The duty of the duly appointed local assessor shall be to view and appraise the value of all property as provided by law, but all the book work shall be done by the county assessor, or the assessor's assistants, and the value of all property subject to assessment and taxation shall be determined by the county assessor, except as otherwise hereinafter provided. If directed by the county assessor, the local assessor shall perform the duties enumerated in subdivision 8, paragraph (16).

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 273.061, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

Subd. 8. **Powers and duties.** The county assessor shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To call upon and confer with the township and city assessors in the county, and advise and give them the necessary instructions and directions as to their duties under the laws of this state, to the end that a uniform assessment of all real property in the county will be attained.

(2) To assist and instruct the local assessors in the preparation and proper use of land maps and record cards, in the property classification of real and personal property, and in the determination of proper standards of value.

(3) To keep the local assessors in the county advised of all changes in assessment laws and all instructions which the assessor receives from the commissioner of revenue relating to their duties.

(4) To have authority to require the attendance of groups of local assessors at sectional meetings called by the assessor for the purpose of giving them further assistance and instruction as to their duties.

(5) To immediately commence the preparation of a large scale topographical land map of the county, in such form as may be prescribed by the commissioner of revenue, showing thereon the location of all railroads, highways and roads, bridges, rivers and lakes, swamp areas, wooded tracts, stony ridges and other features which might affect the value of the land. Appropriate symbols shall be used to indicate the best, the fair, and the poor land of the county. For use in connection with the topographical land map, the assessor shall prepare and keep available in the assessor's office tables showing fair average minimum and maximum market values per acre of cultivated, meadow, pasture, cutover, timber and waste lands of each township. The assessor shall keep the map and tables available in the office for the guidance of town assessors, boards of review, and the county board of equalization.

(6) To also prepare and keep available in the office for the guidance of town assessors, boards of review and the county board of equalization, a land valuation map of the county, in such form as may be prescribed by the commissioner of revenue. This map, which shall include the bordering tier of townships of each county adjoining, shall show the average market value per acre, both with and without improvements, as finally equalized in the last assessment of real estate, of all land in each town or unorganized township which lies outside the corporate limits of cities.

(7) To regularly examine all conveyances of land outside the corporate limits of cities of the first and second class, filed with the county recorder of the county, and keep a file, by descriptions, of the considerations shown thereon. From the information obtained by comparing the considerations shown with the market values assessed, the assessor shall make recommendations to the county board of equalization of necessary changes in individual assessments or aggregate valuations.

(8) To become familiar with the values of the different items of personal property so as to be in a position when called upon to advise the boards of review and the county board of equalization concerning property, market values thereof.

(9) While the county board of equalization is in session, to give it every possible assistance to enable it to perform its duties. The assessor shall furnish the board with all necessary charts, tables, comparisons, and data which it requires in its deliberations, and shall make whatever investigations the board may desire.

(10) At the request of either the board of county commissioners or the commissioner of revenue, to investigate applications for reductions of valuation and abatements and settlements of taxes, examine the real or personal property involved, and submit written reports and recommendations with respect to the applications, in such form as may be prescribed by the board of county commissioners and commissioner of revenue.

4.1 (11) To make diligent search each year for real and personal property which has been
4.2 omitted from assessment in the county, and report all such omissions to the county auditor.

4.3 (12) To regularly confer with county assessors in all adjacent counties about the
4.4 assessment of property in order to uniformly assess and equalize the value of similar
4.5 properties and classes of property located in adjacent counties. The conference shall
4.6 emphasize the assessment of agricultural and commercial and industrial property or other
4.7 properties that may have an inadequate number of sales in a single county.

4.8 (13) To render such other services pertaining to the assessment of real and personal
4.9 property in the county as are not inconsistent with the duties set forth in this section, and as
4.10 may be required by the board of county commissioners or by the commissioner of revenue.

4.11 (14) To maintain a record, in conjunction with other county offices, of all transfers of
4.12 property to assist in determining the proper classification of property, including but not
4.13 limited to, transferring homestead property and name changes on homestead property.

4.14 (15) To determine if a homestead application is required due to the transfer of
4.15 homestead property or an owner's name change on homestead property.

4.16 (16) To perform appraisals of property, review the original assessment and determine
4.17 the accuracy of the original assessment, prepare an appraisal or appraisal report, and
4.18 testify before any court or other body as an expert or otherwise on behalf of the assessor's
4.19 jurisdiction with respect to properties in that jurisdiction.

4.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment
4.21 for testimony offered and opinions or reports prepared in cases or proceedings that have
4.22 not been finally resolved.