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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. **858**

02/06/2017 Authored by Johnson, B.,
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Regional Governance Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to aeronautics; providing for registration of unmanned aircraft; amending
1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2016, sections 360.013, by adding subdivisions; 360.55, by
1.4 adding a subdivision; 360.62.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 360.013, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.7 to read:

1.8 Subd. 62. Unmanned aircraft. "Unmanned aircraft" means an aircraft, as defined in
1.9 subdivision 37, that is operated without the possibility of human intervention from within
1.10 or on the aircraft.

1.11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 360.013, is amended by adding a subdivision to
1.12 read:

1.13 Subd. 63. Unmanned aircraft system. "Unmanned aircraft system" means an unmanned
1.14 aircraft and all of its associated elements, including components and communication links,
1.15 that are required to control and operate the aircraft.

1.16 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 360.55, is amended by adding a subdivision to
1.17 read:

1.18 Subd. 9. Unmanned aircraft systems. Any unmanned aircraft system that weighs less
1.19 than 55 pounds, including payload and anything affixed to the aircraft, must be registered
1.20 in the state for an annual fee of \$25. This subdivision does not apply to unmanned aircraft
1.21 systems that are owned and operated solely for recreational purposes.

2.1 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 360.62, is amended to read:

2.2 **360.62 TAX REFUND.**

2.3 Except as provided herein the tax upon any aircraft which has been paid for any year,
2.4 shall be refunded only for errors made in computing the tax or fees or for the error on the
2.5 part of an owner who may in error have registered an aircraft that was not before, nor at the
2.6 time of such registration, nor at any time thereafter during the tax period, subject to such
2.7 tax in this state; provided that after more than 24 months after such tax was paid no refund
2.8 shall be made for any tax paid on any aircraft. Refunds as provided by sections 360.511 to
2.9 360.67 shall be made in the manner provided by Laws 1947, chapter 416. The former owner
2.10 of a transferred aircraft by an assignment in writing endorsed upon the former owner's
2.11 registration certificate and delivered to the commissioner within the time provided herein
2.12 may sell and assign to the new owner thereof the right to have the tax paid by the former
2.13 owner accredited to such new owner who duly registers such aircraft. Any owner whose
2.14 aircraft ~~shall be~~ is destroyed or permanently removed from the state ~~shall be~~ is entitled to
2.15 a refund for the unused portion of the tax paid upon the destroyed or removed aircraft ~~so~~
2.16 ~~destroyed or removed from the state, such.~~ The refund to must be computed pro rata by the
2.17 month, and to be equal to the monthly tax rate multiplied by the number of full calendar
2.18 months remaining in the fiscal year, or multiplied by the number of full calendar months
2.19 remaining in that period between January 1, 1966, to and including June 30, 1967, whichever
2.20 period is applicable. An unmanned aircraft system that is destroyed or permanently removed
2.21 from the state is not entitled to a tax refund under this section.

2.22 In order to secure such refund, the aircraft owner shall submit a signed statement that
2.23 such aircraft has either been sold out of state or destroyed, the date of such sale or destruction,
2.24 and such other information as the commissioner may require. Any false statement willfully
2.25 and knowingly made in regard thereto shall be deemed a perjury and punished accordingly.
2.26 No refund shall be made if application is not made within 12 months after the date the
2.27 aircraft was sold out of state or destroyed.