

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; EXPIRATION.

(a) Sections 1 to 4 are effective July 1, 2001.

(b) The amendments in sections 3 and 4 to Minnesota Statutes, section 171.02, expire July 1, 2003.

(c) The amendment in section 1 to Minnesota Statutes, section 169.01, subdivision 75, expires July 1, 2003.

Presented to the governor May 11, 2001

Signed by the governor May 15, 2001, 1:59 p.m.

CHAPTER 98—S.F.No. 1056

An act relating to drivers' licenses; modifying certain annual requirements relating to school bus drivers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 171.321, subdivision 5.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 171.321, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. ANNUAL EVALUATION AND LICENSE VERIFICATION. (a) A school district's pupil transportation safety director, the chief administrator of a nonpublic school, or a private contractor shall certify annually to the school board or governing board of a nonpublic school that, at minimum, each school bus driver meets the school bus driver training competencies under subdivision 4. A school district, nonpublic school, or private contractor also shall provide in-service training annually to each school bus driver.

(b) A school district, nonpublic school, or private contractor shall annually verify the validity of the driver's license of each person who transports students for the district with the National Drivers Register or with the department of public safety.

Presented to the governor May 11, 2001

Signed by the governor May 15, 2001, 2:02 p.m.

CHAPTER 99—S.F.No. 1164

An act relating to conservation; modifying the definition of landowner for purposes of participation in the RIM program; increasing the amount of funding available to participants; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, sections 103F.511, subdivision 6; and 103F.515, subdivision 6.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 103F.511, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **LANDOWNER.** "Landowner" means individuals, family farms, family farm partnerships, authorized farm partnerships, family farm corporations and authorized farm corporations as defined under section 500.24, subdivision 2, and estates and testamentary trusts, which either own eligible land or are purchasing eligible land under a contract for deed an individual or entity that is not prohibited from owning agricultural land under section 500.24 and either owns eligible land or is purchasing eligible land under a contract for deed.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 103F.515, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **PAYMENTS FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COVER.** (a) The board must make the following payments to the landowner for the conservation easement and agreement:

(1) to establish the perennial cover or other improvements required by the agreement:

(i) except as provided in items (ii) and (iii), up to 75 percent of the total eligible cost not to exceed ~~\$75~~ \$125 per acre for limited duration easements and 100 percent of the total eligible cost not to exceed ~~\$100~~ \$150 per acre for perpetual easements;

(ii) for native species restoration, 75 percent of the total eligible cost not to exceed ~~\$150~~ \$200 per acre for limited duration easements and 100 percent of the total eligible cost not to exceed ~~\$200~~ \$300 per acre for perpetual easements; and

(iii) 100 percent of the total eligible cost of wetland restoration not to exceed ~~\$300~~ \$600 per acre;

(2) for the cost of planting trees required by the agreement, up to 75 percent of the total eligible cost not to exceed ~~\$200~~ \$250 per acre for limited duration easements, and 100 percent of the total eligible cost not to exceed ~~\$300~~ \$400 per acre for perpetual easements;

(3) for a permanent easement, 70 percent of the township average equalized estimated market value of agricultural property as established by the commissioner of revenue at the time of easement application;

(4) for an easement of limited duration, 90 percent of the present value of the average of the accepted bids for the federal conservation reserve program, as contained in Public Law Number 99-198, in the relevant geographic area and on bids accepted at the time of easement application; or

(5) an alternative payment system for easements based on cash rent or a similar system as may be determined by the board.

(b) For hillside pasture conservation easements, the payments to the landowner in paragraph (a) for the conservation easement and agreement must be reduced to reflect the value of similar property.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

(c) The board may establish a payment system for flowage easements acquired under this section.

(d) For wetland restoration projects involving more than one conservation easement, state payments for restoration costs may exceed the limits set forth in this section for an individual easement provided the total payment for the restoration project does not exceed the amount payable for the total number of acres involved.

(e) The board may use available nonstate funds to exceed the payment limits in this section.

Presented to the governor May 11, 2001

Signed by the governor May 15, 2001, 1:58 p.m.

CHAPTER 100—S.F.No. 1064

An act relating to public contracts; specifying procedures to be followed for certain professional service contracts; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 16C.

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

Section 1. [16C.095] SELECTION OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS.

Subdivision 1. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COVERED. This section applies to an agency contract for professional services of persons regulated by the board of architecture, engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, geoscience, and interior design for which the agency, with the approval of the commissioner, decides to use procedures under this section. If the agency, with the approval of the commissioner, decides to use procedures under this section, it must comply with subdivisions 2, 3, and 4. This section does not apply to an agency contract that is subject to section 16B.33.

Subd. 2. QUALIFICATION-BASED SELECTION. Notwithstanding section 16C.06, subdivision 6, an agency must rank contractors described in subdivision 1 on the basis of qualifications, as described in subdivision 3, for the type of professional service required. An agency may solicit pricing information from a single responder at a time in rank order, commencing with the highest ranked contractor, to determine contractor compensation only after the agency has ranked prospective contractors based on the factors the agency specifies in accordance with subdivisions 3 and 4.

Subd. 3. PROCEDURES. Subject to subdivision 2, procedures for screening and selection of contractors are within the sole discretion of the agency and must be approved by the commissioner when the agency seeks approval to use this alternative. Procedures may be adjusted to accommodate the agency's cost, scope, and schedule objectives for a particular project. Screening and selection procedures may include a consideration of each contractor's:

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