

or any by-products, shall be placed in a separate fund, and used first to pay the normal, reasonable and current costs of operating and maintaining the facilities.

Subd. 3j. EXCESS NET REVENUES MAY BE USED FOR DEBT. The net revenues received in excess of the costs may be pledged by resolutions of the governing body, or may be used though not so pledged, for the payment of principal and interest on obligations issued as provided in subdivision 2, or to pay the portion of the principal and interest as may be directed in the resolutions, and net revenues derived from any facilities of the types listed in subdivision 1a, whether or not financed by the issuance of the obligations, may be pledged or used to pay obligations issued for other facilities of the same types.

Subd. 3k. COVENANTS TO SECURE DEBT PAYMENTS. In resolutions authorizing the issuance of either general or special obligations and pledging net revenues to them, the governing body may make covenants for the protection of holders of the obligations and taxpayers of the municipality or county as it deems necessary, including, but without limitation, a covenant that the municipality or county will impose and collect charges of the nature authorized by this section at the times and in the amounts required to produce, together with any taxes or special assessments designated as a primary source of payment of the obligations, net revenues adequate to pay all principal and interest when due on the obligations and to create and maintain reserves securing the payments as may be provided in the resolutions.

Subd. 3l. ENFORCEABILITY OF COVENANT. When a covenant is made it shall be enforceable by appropriate action on the part of any holder of the obligations or any taxpayer of the municipality or county in a court of competent jurisdiction, and the obligations shall be deemed to be payable wholly from the income of the system whose revenues are so pledged, within the meaning of sections 475.51 and 475.58.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Sections 1 to 4 are effective January 1, 2006, except that the inclusion of cities of the first class in the definition of municipality in Minnesota Statutes, section 444.075, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), is effective August 1, 2004.

Presented to the governor March 25, 2004

Signed by the governor March 26, 2004, 6:50 p.m.

CHAPTER 142—H.F.No. 307

An act relating to elections; providing an exemption for noncommercial signs from ordinances that limit the number of noncommercial signs; amending Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 211B.045.

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

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 211B.045, is amended to read:

211B.045 NONCOMMERCIAL SIGNS EXEMPTION.

In any municipality with whether or not the municipality has an ordinance that regulates the size or number of noncommercial signs, ~~notwithstanding the provisions of that ordinance~~, all noncommercial signs of any size may be posted in any number from August 1 in a state general election year until ten days following the state general election.

Presented to the governor March 25, 2004

Signed by the governor March 26, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

CHAPTER 143—H.F.No. 1064

An act relating to state employees; making technical and housekeeping changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2002, sections 43A.30, subdivision 5; 43A.319.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 43A.30, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **ADMINISTRATION.** The commissioner of employee relations may administer the employee insurance program. The commissioner may assess agencies, and employers of persons eligible for state-paid insurance and benefits under section 43A.24, the cost of these administrative services, including diagnostic and assessment, referral, and training services provided by the employee assistance program under section 43A.319, and include it in the amounts billed for life insurance, hospital, medical, and dental benefits, and optional coverages authorized. Receipts from the assessments must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to a special account in the employee insurance trust fund and are appropriated to the commissioner to pay these administrative costs.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2002, section 43A.319, is amended to read:

43A.319 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

The commissioner shall provide an employee assistance program of training, diagnostic assessment, counseling, and referral services for state employees and their dependents.

Presented to the governor March 25, 2004

Signed by the governor March 26, 2004, 7:25 p.m.

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