

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETIETH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1537**

(SENATE AUTHORS: DZIEDZIC)

DATE  
02/27/2017

D-PG  
800 Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Taxes

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to taxation; tobacco; modifying provisions for the taxation of tobacco and

1.3 vapor products; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, sections

1.4 270C.722, subdivision 1; 270C.728, by adding a subdivision; 297F.01, subdivisions

1.5 9a, 10, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, by adding subdivisions; 297F.03, subdivisions 1, 2, 3,

1.6 5, 6, 7, by adding a subdivision; 297F.04, subdivisions 1, 2; 297F.05, subdivision

1.7 3, by adding a subdivision; 297F.06, by adding a subdivision; 297F.08, subdivision

1.8 8a; 297F.09, subdivisions 2, 7, 10; 297F.12, subdivision 3; 297F.13, subdivisions

1.9 2, 4, by adding a subdivision; 297F.15, subdivision 9; 297F.19, by adding a

1.10 subdivision; 297F.20, subdivisions 5, 6, 7, 9, by adding subdivisions; 297F.21,

1.11 subdivision 1; 461.12, subdivision 8; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota

1.12 Statutes, chapter 297F; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.185.

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

1.14 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 270C.722, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.15 Subdivision 1. **Notice of revocation; hearings.** (a) If: ~~(1) a person fails to comply with~~

1.16 ~~chapter 297A or the sales and use tax provisions of chapter 289A or the rules related to~~

1.17 ~~sales tax, or (2) any retailer purchases for resale from an unlicensed seller more than 20,000~~

1.18 ~~cigarettes or \$500 or more worth of tobacco products, without reasonable cause, the~~

1.19 ~~commissioner may give the person 30 days' notice in writing, specifying the violations, and~~

1.20 ~~stating that based on the violations the commissioner intends to revoke the person's permit~~

1.21 ~~issued under section 297A.84. The notice must also advise the person of the right to contest~~

1.22 ~~the revocation under this subdivision. It must also explain the general procedures for a~~

1.23 ~~contested case hearing under chapter 14. The notice may be served personally or by mail~~

1.24 ~~in the manner prescribed for service of an order of assessment.~~

1.25 (b) If the person does not request a hearing within 30 days after the date of the notice

1.26 of intent, the commissioner may serve a notice of revocation of permit upon the person, and

1.27 the permit is revoked. If a hearing is timely requested, and held, the permit is revoked after

the commissioner serves an order of revocation of permit under section 14.62, subdivision 1.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 270C.728, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

**Subd. 8. Publication of revoked retail cigarette licenses.** (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the commissioner may publish a list of persons who have had their retail licenses to sell cigarettes or tobacco products revoked under section 297F.186. In the case of a license holder that is a business entity, the commissioner may also publish the name of responsible persons of the license holder, as defined in section 297F.186, subdivision 1.

(b) At least 30 days before publishing the name of a license holder or responsible person, the commissioner shall mail a written notice to the license holder and to responsible persons of the license holder of the commissioner's intent to publish. This notice may be included as part of the notice of intent to revoke a license as required under section 297F.186, subdivision 3.

(c) The list may be published by any medium or method. The list must contain the name and address of the license holder and name of the responsible person and the date the license was revoked.

(d) The commissioner shall remove the name of a license holder or responsible person from the list five years from the date of the license revocation or upon the license holder or responsible person receiving a license clearance under section 297F.186.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

**Subd. 6a. Consumable material.** "Consumable material" means any liquid nicotine solution or other material containing nicotine that is depleted as a vapor product is used.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

**Subd. 7a. Consumer packaging.** "Consumer packaging" means any container of vapor product that is of an appropriate size for sale to a consumer.

3.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

3.2 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, subdivision 9a, is amended to read:

3.3 Subd. 9a. **Invoice.** "Invoice" means a detailed list of cigarettes and tobacco products  
3.4 purchased or sold in this state that contains the following information:

3.5 (1) name of seller;

3.6 (2) name of purchaser;

3.7 (3) date of sale;

3.8 (4) invoice number;

3.9 (5) itemized list of goods sold including brands of cigarettes and number of cartons of  
3.10 each brand, unit price, and identification of tobacco products by name, quantity, and unit  
3.11 price; ~~and~~

3.12 (6) any rebates, discounts, or other reductions; and

3.13 (7) the weight or volume of the consumable material and concentration level of nicotine  
3.14 of each vapor product sold.

3.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for invoices issued for vapor products  
3.16 purchased or sold after December 31, 2017.

3.17 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

3.18 Subd. 10. **Manufacturer.** "Manufacturer" means a person who produces and sells  
3.19 cigarettes or tobacco products and includes a manufacturer of vapor products.

3.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

3.21 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
3.22 read:

3.23 Subd. 10c. **Manufacturer of vapor products.** "Manufacturer of vapor products" means  
3.24 a person who makes, modifies, mixes, fabricates, assembles, processes, repacks, or relabels  
3.25 a vapor product in Minnesota to sell.

3.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, subdivision 14, is amended to read:

Subd. 14. **Retailer.** "Retailer" means a person ~~required to be licensed under chapter 461~~  
located in this state engaged in this state in the business of selling, or offering to sell,  
cigarettes or tobacco products to consumers.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 16a. **Sales price of vapor products.** (a) "Sales price of vapor products" means the price at which a distributor or retailer purchases a vapor product or the price at which a subjobber purchases vapor products from a manufacturer of vapor products.

(b) For the purposes of section 297F.05, subdivision 3b, paragraph (a), clause (5), "sales price of vapor product" means the price at which the manufacturer sells the product minus a retailer markup equal to ten percent of that price.

(c) If a vapor product described in section 297F.01, subdivision 22b, paragraph (b), includes a cartridge, bottle, or other package of nicotine solution which is available for purchase as a separate item by the distributor, retailer, subjobber, or consumer, then the price at which the vapor product is purchased or sold for purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b) is limited to the usual price, without regard to any discount or reduction, at which the cartridge, bottle, or other package of nicotine solution is separately sold to a distributor, retailer, subjobber, or consumer.

(d) Sales price of vapor products includes the applicable federal excise tax, freight charges, and packaging costs, regardless of whether they were included in the purchase price, but does not include the tax imposed under section 297F.05, subdivision 3b.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for vapor products subject to tax after December 31, 2017.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, subdivision 17, is amended to read:

Subd. 17. **Stamp.** "Stamp" means the adhesive stamp supplied by the commissioner of revenue for use on cigarette packages or packages of moist snuff or other tobacco products or any other indicia adopted by the commissioner to indicate that the tax has been paid.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2019.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, subdivision 19, is amended to read:

Subd. 19. **Tobacco products.** (a) "Tobacco products" means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including, but not limited to, cigars; cheroots; stogies; periques; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine-cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco, vapor products, and other kinds and forms of tobacco; but does not include cigarettes as defined in this section. Tobacco products excludes any tobacco product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

(b) Except for the imposition of tax under section 297F.05, subdivisions 3 and 4, tobacco products includes a premium cigar, as defined in subdivision 13a.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, subdivision 20, is amended to read:

Subd. 20. **Tobacco products distributor.** (a) "Tobacco products distributor" means ~~any~~ of the following:

(1) a person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products in this state who brings, or causes to be brought, into this state from outside the state any tobacco products for sale; or

~~(2) a person who makes, manufactures, or fabricates tobacco products in this state for sale in this state;~~

~~(3)~~ a person engaged in the business of selling tobacco products outside this state who ships or transports tobacco products to retailers in this state, to be sold by those retailers.

(b) "Tobacco products distributor" includes a person who makes, manufactures, or fabricates tobacco products, other than vapor products, in this state for sale in this state.

(c) "Tobacco products distributor" includes a manufacturer of vapor products only to the extent that the manufacturer brings tobacco products into this state for use other than in manufacturing vapor products.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

6.1 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, subdivision 21, is amended to read:

6.2 Subd. 21. **Tobacco products subjobber.** "Tobacco products subjobber" means:

6.3 (1) a person, other than a manufacturer or distributor, who buys<sub>2</sub> from a manufacturer  
6.4 of vapor products or a distributor<sub>2</sub> tobacco products upon which the tax imposed by this  
6.5 chapter has been paid and sells them to persons other than the ultimate consumers<sub>5</sub>; and

6.6 (2) any licensed distributor who delivers, sells, or distributes tobacco products upon  
6.7 which the tax imposed by this chapter has been paid from a place of business other than  
6.8 that licensed in the distributor's license.

6.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

6.10 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.01, is amended by adding a subdivision  
6.11 to read:

6.12 Subd. 22b. **Vapor product.** (a) "Vapor product" means any cartridge, bottle, or other  
6.13 package that contains nicotine that is derived from tobacco and is in a solution that is  
6.14 consumed, or meant to be consumed, through the use of a heating element, power source,  
6.15 electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means that produces vapor  
6.16 from the nicotine.

6.17 (b) Vapor product includes any electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo,  
6.18 electronic pipe, or similar product or device, and any batteries, heating elements, or other  
6.19 components, parts, or accessories sold with and meant to be used in the consumption of the  
6.20 nicotine solution described in paragraph (a).

6.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

6.22 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.03, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

6.23 Subdivision 1. **Selling without license illegal.** No person shall engage in the business  
6.24 of a manufacturer of vapor products, distributor<sub>2</sub> or subjobber at any place of business  
6.25 without first having received a license from the commissioner to engage in that business at  
6.26 that place of business.

6.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

7.1 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.03, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

7.2 Subd. 2. **Form of application.** Every application for a cigarette ~~or~~ tobacco products<sub>2</sub>  
7.3 or manufacturer of vapor products license shall be made on a form prescribed by the  
7.4 commissioner.

7.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

7.6 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.03, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

7.7 Subd. 3. **Place of application.** A separate application for a distributor's license or a  
7.8 manufacturer of vapor products license shall be made for each place of business at which  
7.9 a distributor proposes to engage in business or a manufacturer proposes to manufacture  
7.10 vapor products.

7.11 A separate application for a subjobber's license may be made by a licensed distributor  
7.12 for each place of business, other than that licensed in the distributor's license, to which the  
7.13 distributor sells or distributes stamped cigarettes or tobacco products.

7.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

7.15 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.03, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

7.16 Subd. 5. **License fees; cigarettes.** Each application for a cigarette distributor's license  
7.17 must be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$300~~ \$500. Each application for a cigarette subjobber's  
7.18 license must be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$24~~ \$100. A distributor or subjobber applying for  
7.19 a license during the second year of a two-year licensing period is required to pay only  
7.20 one-half of the license fee.

7.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for license periods beginning after  
7.22 December 31, 2017.

7.23 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.03, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

7.24 Subd. 6. **License fees; tobacco products.** Each application for a tobacco products  
7.25 distributor's license must be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$75~~ \$500. Each application for a  
7.26 tobacco products subjobber's license must be accompanied by a fee of ~~\$20~~ \$100. A distributor  
7.27 or subjobber applying for a license during the second year of a two-year licensing period  
7.28 is required to pay only one-half of the license fee.

7.29 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for license periods beginning after  
7.30 December 31, 2017.

8.1 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.03, is amended by adding a subdivision  
8.2 to read:

8.3 Subd. 6a. **License fees, vapor products.** Each application for a manufacturer of vapor  
8.4 products license must be accompanied by a fee equal to the fee for a tobacco products  
8.5 distributor license under subdivision 6. A manufacturer of vapor products is not required  
8.6 to obtain a distributor license under subdivision 6 to sell vapor products manufactured by  
8.7 the licensee and sold in consumer packaging to a tobacco products distributor, a tobacco  
8.8 products subjobber, or a retailer.

8.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

8.10 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.03, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

8.11 Subd. 7. **Issuance of license.** The commissioner, upon receipt of the application in proper  
8.12 form, and payment of the license fee required by this chapter, shall, unless otherwise provided  
8.13 by this chapter, issue the applicant a license in the form prescribed by the commissioner.  
8.14 The license permits the applicant to engage in business as a manufacturer of vapor products,  
8.15 distributor, or subjobber at the place of business shown in the application.

8.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

8.17 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8.18 Subdivision 1. **Powers of commissioner.** The commissioner may revoke or suspend the  
8.19 license or licenses of any manufacturer of vapor products, distributor, or subjobber for  
8.20 violation of this chapter, any other act applicable to the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products,  
8.21 or any rule promulgated by the commissioner, in furtherance of this chapter.

8.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

8.23 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.04, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8.24 Subdivision 1. **Powers of commissioner.** The commissioner may revoke ~~or~~, suspend,  
8.25 or refuse to renew the license or licenses of any distributor or subjobber, or refuse to issue  
8.26 a license to an applicant for a distributor or subjobber license, for violation of this chapter,  
8.27 any other act applicable to the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products, or any rule promulgated  
8.28 by the commissioner, in furtherance of this chapter.

8.29 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017.



9.1 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.04, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

9.2 Subd. 2. **Refusal to issue or renew; revocation.** The commissioner must not issue or  
9.3 renew a license under this chapter, and may revoke a license under this chapter, if the  
9.4 applicant or licensee:

9.5 (1) owes \$500 or more in delinquent taxes as defined in section 270C.72, subdivision  
9.6 2;

9.7 (2) after demand, has not filed tax returns required by the commissioner;

9.8 (3) had a ~~cigarette or tobacco~~ license under this chapter revoked by the commissioner  
9.9 within the past two years;

9.10 (4) had a sales and use tax permit revoked by the commissioner within the past two  
9.11 years; or

9.12 (5) has been convicted of a crime involving cigarettes, including but not limited to:  
9.13 selling stolen cigarettes or tobacco products, receiving stolen cigarettes or tobacco products,  
9.14 or involvement in the smuggling of cigarettes or tobacco products.

9.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

9.16 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.05, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

9.17 Subd. 3. **Rates; tobacco products.** (a) Except as provided in subdivision 3a and 3b, a  
9.18 tax is imposed upon all tobacco products in this state and upon any person engaged in  
9.19 business as a distributor, at the rate of 95 percent of the wholesale sales price of the tobacco  
9.20 products. The tax is imposed at the time the distributor:

9.21 (1) brings, or causes to be brought, into this state from outside the state tobacco products  
9.22 for sale;

9.23 (2) makes, manufactures, or fabricates tobacco products in this state for sale in this state;  
9.24 or

9.25 (3) ships or transports tobacco products to retailers in this state, to be sold by those  
9.26 retailers.

9.27 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a minimum tax equal to the rate imposed on a pack  
9.28 of 20 cigarettes weighing not more than three pounds per thousand, as established under  
9.29 subdivision 1, is imposed on each container of moist snuff.

9.30 For purposes of this subdivision, a "container" means the smallest consumer-size can,  
9.31 package, or other container that is marketed or packaged by the manufacturer, distributor,

10.1 or retailer for separate sale to a retail purchaser. When more than one container is packaged  
10.2 together, each container is subject to tax.

10.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

10.4 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.05, is amended by adding a subdivision  
10.5 to read:

10.6 Subd. 3b. **Rates; vapor products.** (a) In lieu of the tax imposed under subdivision 3, a  
10.7 tax is imposed upon all vapor products in this state equal to:

10.8 (1) in the case of a Minnesota distributor who brings, or causes to be brought, vapor  
10.9 products into this state, 95 percent of the sales price of vapor products paid by the distributor;

10.10 (2) in the case of a distributor who sells vapor products from outside this state to a  
10.11 retailer, 95 percent of the sales price of vapor products paid by the retailer;

10.12 (3) in the case of a manufacturer of vapor products who sells the manufactured product  
10.13 to retailers or subjobbers, 95 percent of the sales price of vapor products paid by the retailer  
10.14 or subjobber;

10.15 (4) in the case of a Minnesota distributor who purchases vapor products from a  
10.16 manufacturer of vapor products, 95 percent of the sales price of vapor products paid by the  
10.17 distributor; and

10.18 (5) in the case of a manufacturer of vapor products who is also a retailer who sells the  
10.19 manufactured product to consumers, 95 percent of the sales price of vapor products.

10.20 (b) The tax under this subdivision is imposed:

10.21 (1) on the distributor at the time the vapor products in consumer packaging are brought  
10.22 into the state or received by the distributor who brings, or causes to be brought, into this  
10.23 state the vapor products for sale in this state;

10.24 (2) on the distributor at the time the distributor ships or transports the vapor products in  
10.25 consumer packaging from outside this state to retailers in this state;

10.26 (3) on the manufacturer of vapor products at the time the vapor products are sold to a  
10.27 retailer or subjobber;

10.28 (4) on the distributor at the time a Minnesota distributor purchases the vapor products  
10.29 in consumer packaging that were manufactured by a Minnesota manufacturer of vapor  
10.30 products; and

11.1 (5) on the manufacturer of vapor products who is also a retailer of vapor products, at  
11.2 the time the vapor products manufactured in this state are sold to the consumer.

11.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for vapor products bought, sold, or  
11.4 manufactured in Minnesota after December 31, 2017.

11.5 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.06, is amended by adding a subdivision  
11.6 to read:

11.7 Subd. 6. **Exempt sales of vapor products to licensed manufacturers of vapor**  
11.8 **products.** (a) A tobacco products distributor or manufacturer of vapor products, who at the  
11.9 time of sale accepts in good faith a valid exemption certificate from a purchaser that is a  
11.10 licensed manufacturer of vapor products, may sell vapor products in consumer packaging  
11.11 containing more than 50 milliliters of nicotine solution to the purchaser exempt from the  
11.12 tax imposed under section 297F.05, subdivision 3b.

11.13 (b) An exemption certificate is valid if it:

11.14 (1) is substantially in the form prescribed by the commissioner;

11.15 (2) bears the name and address of the purchaser;

11.16 (3) indicates the manufacturer of vapor products identification number issued to the  
11.17 purchaser by the commissioner;

11.18 (4) is signed by the purchaser if it is in paper form, or meets the requirements of section  
11.19 270C.304 if it is in electronic form; and

11.20 (5) indicates that the purchaser:

11.21 (i) intends to use the product to manufacture vapor products;

11.22 (ii) agrees to pay the applicable tax on the finished manufactured vapor products; and

11.23 (iii) agrees to pay the applicable tax if the purchaser does not use the product to  
11.24 manufacture vapor product, but sells the product to a consumer or retailer.

11.25 (c) For determining the tax due under paragraph (b), clause (5), item (iii), any product  
11.26 subject to tax is treated as if it was manufactured by the purchaser.

11.27 (d) A purchaser may use a blanket exemption certificate for continuing purchases. A  
11.28 purchaser using a blanket exemption certificate must update the certificate as needed to  
11.29 accurately reflect the information required under paragraph (b).

11.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

12.1 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.08, subdivision 8a, is amended to read:

12.2 Subd. 8a. **Revolving account.** A ~~cigarette~~ tax stamp revolving account is created. The  
12.3 commissioner shall use the amounts in this fund to purchase stamps for resale. The  
12.4 commissioner shall charge distributors for the tax value of the stamps they receive along  
12.5 with the commissioner's cost to purchase the stamps and ship them to the distributor. The  
12.6 stamp purchase and shipping costs recovered must be credited to the revolving account and  
12.7 are appropriated to the commissioner for the further purchases and shipping costs. The  
12.8 revolving account is initially funded by a \$40,000 transfer from the Department of Revenue.

12.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2019.

12.10 Sec. 29. **[297F.081] TOBACCO PRODUCTS STAMPS.**

12.11 **Subdivision 1. Stamp affixed by distributor.** (a) Before delivering, or causing to be  
12.12 delivered, a package of moist snuff to a distributor, subjobber, retailer, or consumer in this  
12.13 state, a distributor in this state must firmly affix to each package of moist snuff a tax stamp  
12.14 obtained from the commissioner.

12.15 (b) When moist snuff is shipped into this state by any distributor from outside this state  
12.16 to a retailer or subjobber, the appropriate stamp must be affixed to the package at the time  
12.17 the package enters the state.

12.18 **Subd. 2. Stamps; design; printing.** The commissioner shall adopt the design of the  
12.19 moist snuff stamp. At least one stamp must be designed for application to packages of moist  
12.20 snuff destined for retail sale on an Indian reservation that is a party to an agreement under  
12.21 section 270C.19, subdivision 2, and only to those packages. The commissioner shall arrange  
12.22 for the printing of stamps in such amounts and denominations as the commissioner deems  
12.23 necessary.

12.24 **Subd. 3. Deposit of proceeds.** The commissioner shall use the amounts appropriated  
12.25 by law to purchase stamps for resale. The commissioner shall charge the purchasers for the  
12.26 commissioner's cost to purchase the stamps along with the tax value of the stamps plus  
12.27 shipping costs. The tax value of the stamps must be deposited in the general fund. The  
12.28 portion of the charge to the purchaser that represents the commissioner's cost to purchase  
12.29 the stamps and the shipping costs must be deposited in the revolving stamp fund under  
12.30 section 297F.08, subdivision 8a.

12.31 **Subd. 4. Sale of stamps.** (a) The commissioner shall sell moist snuff stamps only to  
12.32 persons licensed as a tobacco products distributor.

13.1 (b) The commissioner may prescribe the method of shipment of the stamps to the  
13.2 distributor.

13.3 (c) The commissioner shall charge the purchaser for the commissioner's cost to purchase  
13.4 the stamps along with the tax value plus shipping costs.

13.5 (d)(1) The commissioner may sell moist snuff stamps on a credit basis to a distributor  
13.6 unless:

13.7 (i) the distributor has been licensed by the commissioner as a tobacco products distributor  
13.8 for less than one year;

13.9 (ii) the distributor has failed, without reasonable cause, to timely file tax returns or  
13.10 reports required to be filed with the commissioner under a law administered by the  
13.11 commissioner at any time during the prior 24 months; or

13.12 (iii) the distributor has failed, without reasonable cause, to timely pay taxes and fees  
13.13 payable to the commissioner under a law administered by the commissioner at any time  
13.14 during the prior 24 months.

13.15 (2) A distributor may purchase on a credit basis in any calendar month no more than the  
13.16 number of stamps needed to affix to 15 percent of the number of moist snuff packages  
13.17 reported to the commissioner as sold by the distributor during the previous 12-month period.

13.18 (3) A distributor who purchases stamps on a credit basis must pay the cost of the stamps  
13.19 determined under paragraph (c) to the commissioner no later than the due date of the return  
13.20 required under section 297F.09, subdivision 2, for the month that the order for the stamps  
13.21 was received by the commissioner.

13.22 Subd. 5. **Tax stamping machines.** The commissioner may require any person licensed  
13.23 as a distributor to stamp packages of moist snuff with a tax stamping machine, approved  
13.24 by the commissioner, which shall be provided by the distributor. The commissioner shall  
13.25 also supervise and check the operation of the machines. If the commissioner finds that a  
13.26 stamping machine is not affixing a legible stamp on the package, the commissioner may  
13.27 order the distributor to immediately cease the stamping process until the machine is  
13.28 functioning properly.

13.29 Subd. 6. **Resale or transfer of stamps prohibited.** (a) No distributor shall resell or  
13.30 transfer any moist snuff stamps purchased by the distributor from the commissioner. A  
13.31 distributor may transfer another state's stamped moist snuff to another distributor for the  
13.32 purpose of resale in the other state.

(b) A distributor who has on hand any moist snuff stamps when its tobacco products distributor license is revoked, canceled, or not renewed may return the stamps to the commissioner and receive a refund of the amount paid for the stamps.

(c) Moist snuff stamps that have become mutilated or unfit for use, or are affixed to moist snuff packages being returned to the manufacturer, or are affixed to packages of moist snuff that, or the contents of which, have become damaged and unfit for sale, shall be replaced by the commissioner, upon application by the distributor owning the stamps or moist snuff if the commissioner determines the stamps have not evidenced a taxable transaction.

**Subd. 7. Rulemaking for stamps on other tobacco products.** The commissioner may promulgate rules that require tax stamps to be affixed to tobacco products other than moist snuff. The rules may apply to one or more classes or types of tobacco product.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** Subdivision 1 is effective for moist snuff delivered, caused to be delivered, or shipped after June 30, 2019. Subdivisions 2 to 7 are effective January 1, 2019.

Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.09, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

**Subd. 2. Monthly return; tobacco products distributor.** On or before the 18th day of each calendar month, a distributor with a place of business in this state or a manufacturer of vapor products shall file a return with the commissioner showing the quantity and wholesale sales price or sales price of vapor product of each tobacco product:

(1) brought, or caused to be brought, into this state for sale; and

(2) made, manufactured, or fabricated in this state for sale in this state, during the preceding calendar month.

Every licensed distributor outside this state shall in like manner file a return showing the quantity and wholesale sales price or sales of vapor product of each tobacco product shipped or transported to retailers in this state to be sold by those retailers, during the preceding calendar month. Returns must be made in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner and must contain any other information required by the commissioner. The return must be accompanied by a remittance for the full tax liability shown. For distributors subject to the accelerated tax payment requirements in subdivision 10, the return for the May liability is due two business days before June 30th of the year and the return for the June liability is due on or before August 18th of the year.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for taxes imposed on vapor products brought into the state or manufactured in the state after December 31, 2017.

15.1 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.09, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

15.2 Subd. 7. **Electronic payment.** A cigarette or tobacco products distributor or a  
15.3 manufacturer of vapor products having a liability of \$10,000 or more during a fiscal year  
15.4 ending June 30 must remit all liabilities in all subsequent calendar years by electronic means.

15.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

15.6 Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.09, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

15.7 Subd. 10. **Accelerated tax payment; cigarette or tobacco products distributor or**  
15.8 **manufacturer of vapor products.** A cigarette or tobacco products distributor or a  
15.9 manufacturer of vapor products having a liability of \$250,000 or more during a fiscal year  
15.10 ending June 30, shall remit the June liability for the next year in the following manner:

15.11 (a) Two business days before June 30 of the year, the distributor or manufacturer shall  
15.12 remit the actual May liability and 81.4 percent of the estimated June liability to the  
15.13 commissioner and file the return in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner.

15.14 (b) On or before August 18 of the year, the distributor or manufacturer shall submit a  
15.15 return showing the actual June liability and pay any additional amount of tax not remitted  
15.16 in June. A penalty is imposed equal to ten percent of the amount of June liability required  
15.17 to be paid in June, less the amount remitted in June. However, the penalty is not imposed  
15.18 if the amount remitted in June equals the lesser of:

15.19 (1) 81.4 percent of the actual June liability; or

15.20 (2) 81.4 percent of the preceding May liability.

15.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

15.22 Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.12, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

15.23 Subd. 3. **Manufacturers.** (a) A manufacturer of tobacco products as defined by this  
15.24 chapter shall report in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner all sales of  
15.25 tobacco products to Minnesota licensed distributors, subjobbers, retailers, or to any locations  
15.26 within the state. The report is due on the 18th day of the month following the reporting  
15.27 period.

15.28 (b) A manufacturer of vapor products must file a report with the commissioner no later  
15.29 than the 18th day of each month identifying all vapor products placed into consumer  
15.30 packaging and all sales of vapor products made by the manufacturer during the preceding  
15.31 month. The report must identify the names and addresses of the persons within the state to

whom shipments to tobacco products distributors, subjobbers, or retailers were made, and the quantity of vapor products manufactured or sold by type of product, brand, and size. The reports must also include information related to sales and purchases of tax exempt vapor products. If the manufacturer is also a retailer, the report must include the quantity of vapor products sold to customers by type of product, brand, and size.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.13, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Tobacco products distributor.** (a) A distributor shall keep at each licensed place of business complete and accurate records for that place of business, including itemized invoices of tobacco products held, purchased, manufactured, brought in or caused to be brought in from outside the state, or shipped or transported to retailers in this state, and all sales of tobacco products made, except sales to the ultimate consumer. These records must show the names and addresses of purchasers, the inventory of all moist snuff stamps affixed and unaffixed to packages of moist snuff, and all moist snuff on hand at the close of each period for which a return is required, and any other pertinent papers and documents relating to the purchase, sale, or disposition of moist snuff.

(b) When a licensed distributor sells tobacco products exclusively to the ultimate consumer at the address given in the license, no invoice of those sales is required, but itemized invoices must be made of all tobacco products transferred to other retail outlets owned or controlled by that licensed distributor.

(c) All books, records, and other documents required by this chapter must be preserved for a period of at least 3-1/2 years after the date of the documents or the date of the entries appearing in the records, unless the commissioner authorizes in writing their destruction or disposal at an earlier date.

(d) To determine whether the distributor is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, at any time during usual business hours the commissioner, or duly authorized agents or employees, may enter a place of business of a distributor, without a search warrant, and inspect the premises, the records required to be kept under this chapter, and the tobacco products in that place of business. If the commissioner, or an agent or employee of the commissioner, is denied free access or is hindered or interfered with in making the examination, the commissioner may revoke the distributor's license.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for moist snuff purchased, sold, or disposed of after June 30, 2019.



Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.13, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. **Manufacturers of vapor products.** (a) A manufacturer of vapor products shall keep at each licensed place of business complete and accurate records for that place of business, including itemized invoices of vapor products held, purchased, manufactured, brought in or caused to be brought in from outside the state, or shipped or transported to distributors, subjobbers, or retailers in this state.

(b) A manufacturer of vapor products who is also a retailer must keep records of all sales made to the ultimate customer. These records must include cash register tapes or other similar electronic records and any other records which involve purchases or sales of vapor products which are required to be kept by a retailer who makes sales subject to tax under chapter 297A.

(c) When a manufacturer of vapor products sells vapor products exclusively to the ultimate consumer at the address given in the license, no invoice of those sales is required, but itemized invoices must be made of all vapor products transferred to other retail outlets owned or controlled by that manufacturer.

(d) All books, records, and other documents required by this subdivision must be preserved for a period of at least 3-1/2 years after the date of the documents or the date of the entries appearing in the records, unless the commissioner authorizes in writing the destruction or disposal at an earlier date.

(e) To determine whether the manufacturer is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, at any time during usual business hours the commissioner, or duly authorized agents or employees, may enter a place of business of a manufacturer, without a search warrant, and inspect the premises, the records required to be kept under this chapter, and the vapor products in that place of business. If the commissioner, or an agent or employee of the commissioner, is denied free access or is hindered or interfered with in making the examination, the commissioner may revoke the manufacturer's license.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.13, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

**Subd. 4. Retailer and subjobber to preserve purchase invoices.** Every retailer and subjobber shall procure itemized invoices of all cigarettes or tobacco products purchased.

The retailer and subjobber shall preserve a legible copy of each invoice for one year from the date of the invoice or as long as the cigarette or tobacco product listed on the

invoice is available for sale or in their possession, whichever period is longer. The retailer and subjobber shall preserve copies of the invoices at each retail location or at a central location provided that the invoice must be produced and made available at a retail location within one hour when requested by the commissioner or duly authorized agents and employees. Copies should be numbered and kept in chronological order.

To determine whether the business is in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, at any time during usual business hours, the commissioner, or duly authorized agents and employees, may enter any place of business of a retailer or subjobber without a search warrant and inspect the premises, the records required to be kept under this chapter, and the packages of cigarettes, tobacco products, and vending devices contained on the premises.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for sales and purchases by subjobbers and retailers made on or after August 1, 2017.

Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.15, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. **Physical inventory.** The commissioner or the commissioner's authorized agents may, as considered necessary, require a cigarette or tobacco products distributor or a manufacturer of vapor products to furnish a physical inventory of all cigarettes or tobacco products in stock. The inventory must contain the information that the commissioner requests and must be certified by an officer of the corporation.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

Sec. 38. **[297F.186] REVOCATION OF CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO RETAIL LICENSE.**

**Subdivision 1. Cigarette and tobacco retail revocation.** (a) A licensing authority must not issue, transfer, or renew, and must revoke, a license if the commissioner notifies the licensing authority that the license holder has been in possession of contraband cigarettes or tobacco products under section 297F.21 at the location covered by the license.

(b) Within ten days after receipt of the notification from the commissioner under paragraph (a), the licensing authority must notify the license holder by mail of the revocation of the license. The notice must include a copy of the commissioner's notice to the licensing authority and information, in the form specified by the commissioner, on the licensee's option for receiving a license clearance from the commissioner. The licensing authority must revoke the license within 30 days after receiving the notice from the commissioner,

19.1 unless it receives a license clearance from the commissioner as provided in subdivision 2,  
19.2 paragraph (b).

19.3 (c) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given.

19.4 (1) "License holder" means an individual or legal entity who has a license to sell cigarettes  
19.5 or tobacco products issued under chapter 461.

19.6 (2) "License" means a license to sell cigarettes or tobacco products under chapter 461.

19.7 (3) "Licensing authority" means a town board, county board, governing body of a home  
19.8 rule charter or statutory city, or state agricultural society authorized to issue licenses under  
19.9 chapter 461.

19.10 (4) "Applicant" is any individual, corporation, partnership, or any other legal entity that  
19.11 is a holder of a license or that has filed an application to obtain a license.

19.12 (5) "Responsible person" means any individual who, either singly or jointly with others,  
19.13 has the control of, supervision of, or responsibility for filing tax returns or reports, paying  
19.14 taxes, or collecting or withholding and remitting taxes to the commissioner for a license  
19.15 holder, or who has authority to purchase cigarettes or tobacco products, or supervises a  
19.16 person who has authority to purchase cigarettes or tobacco products for the license holder.

19.17 Subd. 2. **New licenses after revocation.** (a) An applicant who has had a license revoked  
19.18 under this section, or an applicant with a responsible person who was a responsible person  
19.19 for another entity for which a license was revoked under this section, may not apply for a  
19.20 license or seek the reinstatement of a revoked license unless the applicant presents to the  
19.21 licensing authority a license clearance issued by the commissioner. A licensing authority  
19.22 must not issue a new license to an applicant with such a responsible person or to an applicant  
19.23 who has had a license revoked under this section or reinstate a revoked license unless the  
19.24 applicant presents to the authority a license clearance issued by the commissioner.

19.25 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (f), the commissioner may issue a license clearance  
19.26 if the applicant and all responsible persons of the applicant:

19.27 (1) sign an agreement that acknowledges that the applicant and the responsible person  
19.28 will follow all laws related to the taxation of cigarettes and tobacco products, including the  
19.29 requirements to:

19.30 (i) purchase all cigarettes and tobacco products from distributors and subjobbers licensed  
19.31 by the commissioner;

(ii) maintain invoices of all cigarettes or tobacco products purchased as required under section 297F.13, subdivision 4, and produce those invoices within one hour when requested by the commissioner or duly authorized agents and employees; and

(iii) timely file and pay to the commissioner all returns and all sales taxes related to the sale of tobacco products; and

(2) deposit with the commissioner security or a surety bond in an amount equal to ten times the amount of tax on the contraband cigarettes or tobacco products. The commissioner must hold the security deposit for two years.

(c) The commissioner must pay interest on any money deposited as security. The interest is calculated from the date of deposit to the date of refund, or date of application to any outstanding tax liability, at a rate specified in section 270C.405. The commissioner must refund the security deposit to the applicant at the end of the two-year period unless the applicant has any unpaid tax liabilities payable to the commissioner. The commissioner may apply the security deposit to any unpaid tax liabilities of the applicant owed to the commissioner as well as the tax on any contraband cigarettes or tobacco products owned, possessed, sold, or offered for sale by the applicant after the license clearance has been issued.

(d) The commissioner may refund the security deposit before the end of the two-year holding period if the license holder no longer has a license to sell cigarettes or tobacco products issued by any licensing authority in the state.

(e) If the commissioner determines that a licensing authority has issued a new license or reinstated a revoked license without the applicant submitting a license clearance, the commissioner may notify the licensing authority to revoke the license. Revocations under this subdivision are controlled by the provisions of subdivision 1, paragraph (b), and subdivision 3. Notice of intent to require revocation from the commissioner must be sent to the license holder and to the responsible person of the license holder.

(f) If an applicant has had, or if a person has been a responsible person to, a cumulative number of two licenses revoked under this subdivision in a five-year period by all licensing authorities within the state, the commissioner may refuse to issue a license clearance until 24 months have elapsed after the last revocation and the applicant has satisfied the conditions for reinstatement of a revoked license or issuance of a new license imposed by this subdivision.

Subd. 3. **Notice and hearing.** (a) Prior to notifying a licensing authority pursuant to subdivision 1 to revoke a license, the commissioner must send a notice to the license holder

21.1 and to any known responsible person of the license holder of the commissioner's intent to  
21.2 require revocation of the license and of the license holder's or responsible person's right to  
21.3 a hearing. If the license holder or responsible person requests a hearing in writing within  
21.4 30 days of the date of the notice, a contested case hearing must be held. The hearing must  
21.5 be held within 45 days of the date the commissioner refers the case to the Office of  
21.6 Administrative Hearings. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the license holder or  
21.7 responsible person must be served within 20 days' notice in writing specifying the time and  
21.8 place of the hearing and the allegations against the license holder or responsible person.  
21.9 The notice may be served personally or by mail. A license is subject to revocation when 30  
21.10 days have passed following the date of the notice in this paragraph without the license holder  
21.11 requesting a hearing, or, if a hearing is timely requested, upon final determination of the  
21.12 hearing under section 14.62, subdivision 1.

21.13 (b) The commissioner may notify a licensing authority under subdivision 1 only after  
21.14 the requirements of paragraph (a) have been satisfied.

21.15 (c) A hearing under this subdivision is in lieu of any other hearing or proceeding provided  
21.16 by law arising from any action taken under subdivision 1.

21.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017.

21.18 Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.19, is amended by adding a subdivision  
21.19 to read:

21.20 Subd. 10. **Penalty for retailers who fail to comply.** (a) A retailer who fails to produce  
21.21 an itemized invoice from a licensed seller within one hour of being requested by the  
21.22 commissioner to do so as required under section 297F.13, subdivision 4, or who offers for  
21.23 sale or holds in inventory cigarettes or tobacco products without a license required under  
21.24 chapter 461 is subject to a penalty of \$100 for the first violation, \$2,000 for the second  
21.25 violation, and \$5,000 for the third and each subsequent violation occurring during any  
21.26 36-month period.

21.27 (b) A retailer who offers for sale or holds in inventory untaxed cigarettes or tobacco  
21.28 products is subject to a penalty equal to the greater of \$2,000, or 150 percent of the tax due  
21.29 on the cigarettes or tobacco products.

21.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for violations occurring on or after August  
21.31 1, 2017.

22.1 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.20, is amended by adding a subdivision  
22.2 to read:

22.3 Subd. 2a. **Penalties for willful failure to file or pay.** (a) A person or consumer required  
22.4 to file a return, report, or other document with the commissioner who willfully attempts in  
22.5 any manner to evade or defeat a tax by failing to do so when required is guilty of a felony.

22.6 (b) A person or consumer required to pay or to collect and remit a tax under this chapter,  
22.7 who willfully attempts to evade or defeat a tax by failing to do so when required, is guilty  
22.8 of a felony.

22.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for offenses committed on or after August  
22.10 1, 2017.

22.11 Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.20, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

22.12 Subd. 5. **Unstamped cigarettes or moist snuff; presumption.** (a) Except as provided  
22.13 in paragraph (b), whenever a package of cigarettes or moist snuff is found in the place of  
22.14 business or in the possession of any person without a proper stamp affixed as required by  
22.15 this chapter, it is presumed that those cigarettes or moist snuff are kept there or held by that  
22.16 person illegally.

22.17 (b) This presumption does not apply to:

22.18 (1) cigarettes or moist snuff in the place of business or in the possession of a licensed  
22.19 distributor;

22.20 (2) cigarettes or moist snuff in the possession of a common carrier or sleeping car  
22.21 company engaged in interstate commerce;

22.22 (3) cigarettes or moist snuff held in a public warehouse of first destination in this state,  
22.23 in the unbroken, original shipping containers, subject to delivery or shipping instructions  
22.24 from the manufacturer or a distributor;

22.25 (4) cigarettes or moist snuff in the possession of a person other than a distributor in  
22.26 quantities of 200 cigarettes or less or \$50 or less of moist snuff, when those cigarettes or  
22.27 moist snuff have had the individual packages or seals broken, and when they are intended  
22.28 for personal use and not to be sold or offered for sale;

22.29 (5) cigarettes or moist snuff sold under circumstances in which the tax cannot legally  
22.30 be imposed because of the laws or Constitution of the United States.

22.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for moist snuff possessed after December  
22.32 31, 2019.

23.1 Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.20, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

23.2 Subd. 6. **Unstamped cigarettes; untaxed tobacco products.** (a) A person, other than  
23.3 a licensed distributor, a licensed manufacturer of vapor products, or a consumer, who  
23.4 possesses, receives, or transports fewer than 5,000 unstamped cigarettes, or up to \$350  
23.5 worth of untaxed tobacco products is guilty of a misdemeanor.

23.6 (b) A person, other than a licensed distributor, a licensed manufacturer of vapor products,  
23.7 or a consumer, who possesses, receives, or transports 5,000 or more, but fewer than 20,001  
23.8 unstamped cigarettes, or more than \$350 but less than \$1,400 worth of untaxed tobacco  
23.9 products is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

23.10 (c) A person, other than a licensed distributor, a licensed manufacturer of vapor products,  
23.11 or a consumer, who possesses, receives, or transports more than 20,000 unstamped cigarettes,  
23.12 or \$1,400 or more worth of untaxed tobacco products is guilty of a felony.

23.13 (d) For purposes of this subdivision, an individual in possession of more than 4,999  
23.14 unstamped cigarettes, or more than \$350 worth of untaxed tobacco products, is presumed  
23.15 not to be a consumer.

23.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

23.17 Sec. 43. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.20, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

23.18 Subd. 6. **Unstamped cigarettes; untaxed tobacco products.** (a) A person, other than  
23.19 a licensed distributor or a consumer, who possesses, receives, or transports fewer than 5,000  
23.20 unstamped cigarettes, or up to \$350 worth of untaxed tobacco products or unstamped moist  
23.21 snuff is guilty of a misdemeanor.

23.22 (b) A person, other than a licensed distributor or a consumer, who possesses, receives,  
23.23 or transports 5,000 or more, but fewer than 20,001 unstamped cigarettes, or more than \$350  
23.24 but less than \$1,400 worth of untaxed tobacco products or unstamped moist snuff is guilty  
23.25 of a gross misdemeanor.

23.26 (c) A person, other than a licensed distributor or a consumer, who possesses, receives,  
23.27 or transports more than 20,000 unstamped cigarettes, or \$1,400 or more worth of untaxed  
23.28 tobacco products or unstamped moist snuff is guilty of a felony.

23.29 (d) For purposes of this subdivision, an individual in possession of more than 4,999  
23.30 unstamped cigarettes, or more than \$350 worth of untaxed tobacco products or unstamped  
23.31 moist snuff, is presumed not to be a consumer.

24.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for moist snuff possessed after December  
24.2 31, 2019, or for moist snuff received or transported after June 30, 2019.

24.3 Sec. 44. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.20, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

24.4 Subd. 7. **Sale of ~~cigarette~~ packages with Indian stamp.** (a) A retailer doing business  
24.5 off of an Indian reservation who sells or offers to sell more than 200 but fewer than 5,000  
24.6 cigarettes or up to \$350 worth of tobacco products with Indian stamps is guilty of a  
24.7 misdemeanor.

24.8 (b) A retailer doing business off of an Indian reservation who sells or offers to sell 5,000  
24.9 or more, but fewer than 20,001 cigarettes or more than \$350 but less than \$1,400 worth of  
24.10 tobacco products with Indian stamps is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

24.11 (c) A retailer doing business off of an Indian reservation who sells or offers to sell more  
24.12 than 20,000 cigarettes or \$1,400 or more worth of tobacco products with Indian stamps is  
24.13 guilty of a felony.

24.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for sales of tobacco products, or offers  
24.15 to sell tobacco products, after June 30, 2019.

24.16 Sec. 45. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.20, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

24.17 Subd. 9. **Purchases from unlicensed sellers.** (a) No retailer or subjobber shall purchase  
24.18 cigarettes or tobacco products from any person who is not licensed under section 297F.03  
24.19 as a licensed distributor, manufacturer of vapor products, or subjobber.

24.20 (b) A retailer or subjobber who purchases from an unlicensed seller fewer than 5,000  
24.21 cigarettes or up to \$350 worth of tobacco products is guilty of a misdemeanor.

24.22 (c) A retailer or subjobber who purchases from an unlicensed seller 5,000 or more, but  
24.23 fewer than 20,001 cigarettes or more than \$350 but less than \$1,400 worth of tobacco  
24.24 products is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

24.25 (d) A retailer or subjobber who purchases from an unlicensed seller more than 20,000  
24.26 cigarettes or \$1,400 or more worth of tobacco products is guilty of a felony.

24.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.



Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.20, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 13. **Aggregation and consolidation of venue.** In any prosecution under this section, the number of unstamped cigarettes or the value of the untaxed tobacco products possessed, received, transported, sold, offered to be sold, or purchased in violation of this section within any six-month period may be aggregated and the defendant charged accordingly in applying the provisions of this section. When two or more offenses are committed by the same individual in two or more counties, the accused may be prosecuted in any county in which one of the offenses was committed.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for offenses committed on or after August 1, 2017.

Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.21, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Contraband defined.** The following are declared to be contraband and therefore subject to civil and criminal penalties under this chapter:

(a) Cigarette packages which do not have stamps affixed to them as provided in this chapter, including but not limited to (i) packages with illegible stamps and packages with stamps that are not complete or whole even if the stamps are legible, and (ii) all devices for the vending of cigarettes in which packages as defined in item (i) are found, including all contents contained within the devices.

(b) A device for the vending of cigarettes and all packages of cigarettes, where the device does not afford at least partial visibility of contents. Where any package exposed to view does not carry the stamp required by this chapter, it shall be presumed that all packages contained in the device are unstamped and contraband.

(c) A device for the vending of cigarettes to which the commissioner or authorized agents have been denied access for the inspection of contents. In lieu of seizure, the commissioner or an agent may seal the device to prevent its use until inspection of contents is permitted.

(d) A device for the vending of cigarettes which does not carry the name and address of the owner, plainly marked and visible from the front of the machine.

(e) A device including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, trailers, snowmobiles, airplanes, and boats used with the knowledge of the owner or of a person operating with the consent of the owner for the storage or transportation of more than 5,000 cigarettes which are contraband under this subdivision. When cigarettes are being transported in the course of interstate commerce, or are in movement from either a public warehouse to a distributor

upon orders from a manufacturer or distributor, or from one distributor to another, the cigarettes are not contraband, notwithstanding the provisions of clause (a).

(f) A device including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, trailers, snowmobiles, airplanes, and boats used with the knowledge of the owner, or of a person operating with the consent of the owner, for the storage or transportation of untaxed tobacco products intended for sale in Minnesota other than those in the possession of a licensed distributor on or before the due date for payment of the tax under section 297F.09, subdivision 2.

(g) Cigarette packages or tobacco products obtained from an unlicensed seller.

(h) Cigarette packages offered for sale or held as inventory in violation of section 297F.20, subdivision 7.

(i) Tobacco products on which the tax has not been paid by a licensed distributor or manufacturer of vapor products.

(j) Any cigarette packages or tobacco products offered for sale or held as inventory for which there is not an invoice from a licensed seller as required under section 297F.13, subdivision 4.

(k) Cigarette packages which have been imported into the United States in violation of United States Code, title 26, section 5754. All cigarettes held in violation of that section shall be presumed to have entered the United States after December 31, 1999, in the absence of proof to the contrary.

(l) Cigarettes subject to forfeiture under section 299F.854, subdivision 5, and cigarette packaging and markings, including the cigarettes contained therein, which do not meet the requirements under section 299F.853, paragraph (a).

(m) Vapor products purchased exempt from tax under section 297F.06, subdivision 6, by a person other than a licensed manufacturer of vapor products.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2018.

Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.21, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Contraband defined.** The following are declared to be contraband and therefore subject to civil and criminal penalties under this chapter:

(a) Cigarette packages which do not have stamps affixed to them as provided in this chapter, including but not limited to (i) packages with illegible stamps and packages with stamps that are not complete or whole even if the stamps are legible, and (ii) all devices for

27.1 the vending of cigarettes in which packages as defined in item (i) are found, including all  
27.2 contents contained within the devices.

27.3 (b) A device for the vending of cigarettes and all packages of cigarettes, where the device  
27.4 does not afford at least partial visibility of contents. Where any package exposed to view  
27.5 does not carry the stamp required by this chapter, it shall be presumed that all packages  
27.6 contained in the device are unstamped and contraband.

27.7 (c) A device for the vending of cigarettes to which the commissioner or authorized agents  
27.8 have been denied access for the inspection of contents. In lieu of seizure, the commissioner  
27.9 or an agent may seal the device to prevent its use until inspection of contents is permitted.

27.10 (d) A device for the vending of cigarettes which does not carry the name and address of  
27.11 the owner, plainly marked and visible from the front of the machine.

27.12 (e) A device including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, trailers, snowmobiles, airplanes,  
27.13 and boats used with the knowledge of the owner or of a person operating with the consent  
27.14 of the owner for the storage or transportation of more than 5,000 cigarettes which are  
27.15 contraband under this subdivision. When cigarettes are being transported in the course of  
27.16 interstate commerce, or are in movement from either a public warehouse to a distributor  
27.17 upon orders from a manufacturer or distributor, or from one distributor to another, the  
27.18 cigarettes are not contraband, notwithstanding the provisions of clause (a).

27.19 (f) A device including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, trailers, snowmobiles, airplanes,  
27.20 and boats used with the knowledge of the owner, or of a person operating with the consent  
27.21 of the owner, for the storage or transportation of untaxed tobacco products intended for sale  
27.22 in Minnesota other than those in the possession of a licensed distributor on or before the  
27.23 due date for payment of the tax under section 297F.09, subdivision 2.

27.24 (g) Cigarette packages or tobacco products obtained from an unlicensed seller.

27.25 (h) Cigarette packages offered for sale or held as inventory in violation of section  
27.26 297F.20, subdivision 7.

27.27 (i) Tobacco products on which the tax has not been paid by a licensed distributor.

27.28 (j) Any cigarette packages or tobacco products offered for sale or held as inventory for  
27.29 ~~which there is not an invoice from a licensed seller~~ the retailer or subjobber does not produce  
27.30 an itemized invoice from a licensed seller within one hour after being requested by the  
27.31 commissioner to do so as required under section 297F.13, subdivision 4.

27.32 (k) Cigarette packages which have been imported into the United States in violation of  
27.33 United States Code, title 26, section 5754. All cigarettes held in violation of that section

28.1 shall be presumed to have entered the United States after December 31, 1999, in the absence  
28.2 of proof to the contrary.

28.3 (l) Cigarettes subject to forfeiture under section 299F.854, subdivision 5, and cigarette  
28.4 packaging and markings, including the cigarettes contained therein, which do not meet the  
28.5 requirements under section 299F.853, paragraph (a).

28.6 (m) All cigarettes and tobacco products, including those for which the tax has been paid,  
28.7 offered for sale or held as inventory by a retailer operating without a license required under  
28.8 chapter 461.

28.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017.

28.10 Sec. 49. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.21, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

28.11 Subdivision 1. **Contraband defined.** The following are declared to be contraband and  
28.12 therefore subject to civil and criminal penalties under this chapter:

28.13 (a) Cigarette or tobacco products packages which do not have stamps affixed to them  
28.14 as provided in this chapter, including but not limited to (i) packages with illegible stamps  
28.15 and packages with stamps that are not complete or whole even if the stamps are legible, and  
28.16 (ii) all devices for the vending of cigarettes in which packages as defined in item (i) are  
28.17 found, including all contents contained within the devices.

28.18 (b) A device for the vending of cigarettes and all packages of cigarettes, where the device  
28.19 does not afford at least partial visibility of contents. Where any package exposed to view  
28.20 does not carry the stamp required by this chapter, it shall be presumed that all packages  
28.21 contained in the device are unstamped and contraband.

28.22 (c) A device for the vending of cigarettes to which the commissioner or authorized agents  
28.23 have been denied access for the inspection of contents. In lieu of seizure, the commissioner  
28.24 or an agent may seal the device to prevent its use until inspection of contents is permitted.

28.25 (d) A device for the vending of cigarettes which does not carry the name and address of  
28.26 the owner, plainly marked and visible from the front of the machine.

28.27 (e) A device including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, trailers, snowmobiles, airplanes,  
28.28 and boats used with the knowledge of the owner or of a person operating with the consent  
28.29 of the owner for the storage or transportation of more than 5,000 cigarettes which are  
28.30 contraband under this subdivision. When cigarettes are being transported in the course of  
28.31 interstate commerce, or are in movement from either a public warehouse to a distributor

29.1 upon orders from a manufacturer or distributor, or from one distributor to another, the  
 29.2 cigarettes are not contraband, notwithstanding the provisions of ~~clause~~ paragraph (a).

29.3 (f) A device including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, trailers, snowmobiles, airplanes,  
 29.4 and boats used with the knowledge of the owner, or of a person operating with the consent  
 29.5 of the owner, for the storage or transportation of untaxed tobacco products intended for sale  
 29.6 in Minnesota other than those in the possession of a licensed distributor on or before the  
 29.7 due date for payment of the tax under section 297F.09, subdivision 2.

29.8 (g) Cigarette packages or tobacco products obtained from an unlicensed seller.

29.9 (h) Cigarette or tobacco products packages offered for sale or held as inventory in  
 29.10 violation of section 297F.20, subdivision 7.

29.11 (i) Tobacco products on which the tax has not been paid by a licensed distributor.

29.12 (j) Any cigarette packages or tobacco products offered for sale or held as inventory for  
 29.13 which there is not an invoice from a licensed seller as required under section 297F.13,  
 29.14 subdivision 4.

29.15 (k) Cigarette packages which have been imported into the United States in violation of  
 29.16 United States Code, title 26, section 5754. All cigarettes held in violation of that section  
 29.17 shall be presumed to have entered the United States after December 31, 1999, in the absence  
 29.18 of proof to the contrary.

29.19 (l) Cigarettes subject to forfeiture under section 299F.854, subdivision 5, and cigarette  
 29.20 packaging and markings, including the cigarettes contained therein, which do not meet the  
 29.21 requirements under section 299F.853, paragraph (a).

29.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** The amendment to paragraph (a) is effective January 1, 2020.  
 29.23 The amendment to paragraph (h) is effective for packages of tobacco products offered for  
 29.24 sale or held as inventory after June 30, 2019.

29.25 Sec. 50. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 461.12, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

29.26 Subd. 8. **Notice to commissioner.** The licensing authority under this section shall, within  
 29.27 30 days of the issuance or renewal of a license, ~~inform~~ provide the commissioner of revenue  
 29.28 ~~of,~~ on a form prescribed by the commissioner and completed by the applicant, the licensee's  
 29.29 name, address, trade name, Minnesota business identification number, the name of the  
 29.30 individual or individuals who will be responsible for purchasing cigarettes or tobacco  
 29.31 products for the licensee, and the effective and expiration dates of the license. The

30.1 commissioner of revenue must also be informed of a license ~~renewal~~, transfer, cancellation,  
30.2 suspension, or revocation during the license period.

30.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for licenses issued, renewed, transferred,  
30.4 canceled, suspended, or revoked after December 31, 2017.

30.5 Sec. 51. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

30.6 \$398,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$371,000 in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from the  
30.7 general fund to the commissioner of revenue to carry out the provisions of this article.  
30.8 \$429,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$316,000 in fiscal year 2021 shall be added to the base  
30.9 appropriations to the Department of Revenue.

30.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

30.11 Sec. 52. **REPEALER.**

30.12 Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 297F.185, is repealed

30.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2017.

APPENDIX  
Repealed Minnesota Statutes: 17-3620

**297F.185 REVOCATION OF SALES AND USE TAX PERMITS.**

(a) If a retailer purchases for resale from an unlicensed seller more than 20,000 cigarettes or \$500 or more worth of tobacco products, the commissioner may revoke the person's sales and use tax permit as provided in section 270C.722.

(b) The commissioner may revoke a retailer's sales or use permit as provided in section 270C.722 if the retailer, directly or indirectly, purchases for resale cigarettes without the proper stamp affixed.