

MINNESOTA STATUTES 1977 SUPPLEMENT

PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST CONTROL 18.023

January and July following the review. The department shall have a two-year initial period to reach 100 percent of expenditures.

Subd. 3. The schedule of fees shall provide that any elevator, mill, or other business requesting a weighing or inspection service, shall pay a minimum charge per hour for each employee requested or assigned. Any fees earned by the employee shall be credited against the charge made therefor. The minimum charge shall be assessed only after taking into consideration all fees earned and all hours charged. When deemed necessary by the commissioner, a charge for actual over-time costs may be made.

[1977 c 296 s 1]

17B.22 Employee; misconduct; personation.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1977 c 347 s 9]

CHAPTER 18. PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST CONTROL

Sec.
18.023 Shade tree disease control.

Sec.
18.69 Budget; limitations.

18.023 Shade tree disease control.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** As used in subdivisions 1 to 12 the terms defined in this subdivision shall have the meanings given them.

(a) "Metropolitan area" means the area comprising the counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Washington, Scott and Carver.

(b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of agriculture.

(c) "Municipality" means any home rule charter or statutory city or any town exercising municipal powers pursuant to section 368.01, or any general or special law, located in the metropolitan area; or any special park district as organized under chapter 398; or any special purpose park and recreation board organized under the city charter of a city of the first class located in the metropolitan area; or any county in the metropolitan area for the purposes of county owned property or any portion of a county located outside the geographic boundaries of a city or town exercising municipal powers; and any municipality or county located outside the metropolitan area with an approved disease control program.

(d) "Shade tree disease" means Dutch elm disease or oak wilt disease.

(e) "Wood utilization or disposal system" means facilities, equipment or systems used for the removal and disposal of diseased shade trees which includes the collection, transportation, processing or storage of wood and which aids in the recovery of materials or energy from wood.

(f) "Approved disease control program" means the municipal plan as approved by the commissioner to control shade tree disease.

(g) "Disease control area" means an area approved by the commissioner within which a municipality will conduct an approved disease control program.

(h) "Sanitation" means the identification, inspection, disruption of a common root system, girdling, trimming, removal and disposal of dead or diseased wood of elm or oak shade trees, including subsidies for trees removed pursuant to subdivision 4, on public or private property within a disease control area.

(i) "Reforestation" means the replacement of shade trees removed from public property as part of an approved disease control program. For purposes of this clause, "public property" shall include private property within five feet of the boulevard or street terrace in any city which has enacted an ordinance on or before January 1, 1977, that prohibits or requires a permit for the planting of trees in the public right of way.

18.023 PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST CONTROL

Subd. 1a. **Purpose.** The legislature finds that an epidemic of Dutch elm disease and oak wilt disease is occurring in Minnesota which threatens the natural environment. Immediate action is therefore necessary to provide funds to assist local units of government in the implementation of shade tree disease control programs by conducting sanitation and reforestation programs, expanding diseased wood destruction programs, increasing public awareness of shade tree disease, accelerating training of tree inspectors and research for disease prevention and subsidizing private property owners for the removal of diseased elm and oak trees.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner to adopt rules.** The commissioner shall adopt and may amend rules relating to shade tree disease control in any municipality, as defined in subdivision 1. The rules shall prescribe control measures to be used to prevent the spread of shade tree diseases and shall include the following: (a) A definition of shade tree, (b) qualifications for tree inspectors, (c) methods of identifying diseased shade trees, (d) procedures for giving reasonable notice of inspection of private real property, (e) measures for the removal of any shade tree which may contribute to the spread of shade tree disease, and for reforestation of disease control areas, (f) approved methods of treatment of shade trees, (g) criteria for priority designation areas in an approved disease control program, and (h) any other matters determined necessary by the commissioner to prevent the spread of shade tree disease and enforce the provisions of this section. After reasonable notice of inspection an owner of the real property on which a diseased shade tree is located shall remove or treat the tree within the period of time and in the manner established by the commissioner. Diseased shade trees which are not removed or treated in compliance with the commissioner's rules shall be declared a public nuisance and removed or treated by approved methods by the municipality which may assess the total expense, which shall be limited to the lowest contract rates available, provided said rates include wage levels which meet Minnesota minimum wage standards, or any part thereof to the property and the expense shall become a lien on the property. A municipality may assess not more than 50 percent of the expense of treating with an approved method or removing diseased shade trees located on street terraces or boulevards to the abutting properties and the assessment shall become a lien on the property.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 3a. **Grants to municipalities.** (a) The commissioner may, in the name of the state and within the limit of appropriations provided, make grants-in-aid to a municipality with an approved disease control program for the partial funding of municipal sanitation and reforestation programs. The commissioner may make grants-in-aid to any home rule charter or statutory city of more than 40,000 population in the metropolitan area as defined in subdivision 1 or a combination of such cities of 40,000 combined population under a joint powers agreement pursuant to section 471.59, or a home rule charter or statutory city of more than 20,000 population outside the metropolitan area or a combination of such cities of 20,000 combined population under a joint powers agreement pursuant to section 471.59 any special purpose park and recreation board organized under a charter of a city of the first class or any non-profit corporation serving a city of the first class or any county having an approved disease control program for the acquisition or implementation of a wood utilization or disposal system.

(b) The commissioner shall promulgate rules for the administration of grants authorized by this subdivision. The rules shall establish and contain as a minimum:

- (1) Procedures for grant applications;
- (2) Conditions and procedures for the administration of grants;
- (3) Criteria of eligibility for grants including, but not limited to, those specified in this subdivision; and

MINNESOTA STATUTES 1977 SUPPLEMENT

PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST CONTROL 18.023

(4) Such other matters as the commissioner may find necessary to the proper administration of the grant program.

(c) Grants-in-aid payments for wood utilization and disposal systems made by the commissioner pursuant to this subdivision shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the system. Grants to any municipality for sanitation shall not exceed 45 percent of sanitation costs approved by the commissioner including any amount of sanitation costs paid by special assessments, ad valorem taxes, federal grants or other funds. A municipality shall not specially assess a property owner any amount greater than the amount of the tree's sanitation cost minus the amount of the tree's sanitation cost reimbursed by the commissioner. Grants to municipalities for reforestation shall not exceed the lesser of 50 percent of the cost or \$40 multiplied by the number of trees planted pursuant to the reforestation program and shall be limited for any municipality in any year to grants for not more than the number of trees removed on public property in the sanitation program in the previous year, except during the first year of any approved disease control program; provided that a reforestation grant to any county may include up to 90 percent of the cost of the first 50 trees planted on public property in a town not described in subdivision 1 and of less than 1,000 population upon the town's application to the county. Reforestation grants to towns as described in subdivision 1 of less than 1,000 population with an approved disease control program may include up to 90 percent of the first 50 trees planted on public property. For the purpose of this subdivision, "cost" shall not include the value of a gift or dedication of trees required by a municipal ordinance but shall include documented "in kind" services or voluntary work for municipalities with a population of less than 1,000 according to the 1970 census.

(d) Based upon estimates submitted by the municipality to the commissioner, which shall state the estimated costs of sanitation and reforestation in the succeeding quarter under an approved program, the commissioner shall direct quarterly advance payments to be made by the state to the municipality commencing April 1, 1977. The commissioner shall direct adjustment of any overestimate in a succeeding quarter. A municipality may elect to receive the proceeds of its sanitation and reforestation grants on a periodic cost reimbursement basis.

(e) A home rule charter or statutory city, or county outside the metropolitan area or any municipality, as defined in subdivision 1, may submit an application for a grant authorized by this subdivision concurrently with its request for approval of a disease control program.

Subd. 4. Subsidies to certain owners. A municipality may provide subsidies to nonprofit organizations, owners of private residential property of five acres or less and to nonprofit cemeteries, however organized, for the approved treatment or removal of diseased shade trees.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an owner of property on which shade trees are located may contract with a municipality to provide protection against the cost of approved treatment or removal of diseased shade trees or shade trees that will contribute to the spread of shade tree diseases. Under such contracts, the municipality shall pay for the removal or approved treatment under such terms and conditions as may be determined by the governing body of the municipality.

[For text of subd 5, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1977 c 90 s 15]

Subd. 7. Financing. (a) A municipality may collect the amount assessed against the property under subdivision 2 as a special assessment and may issue obligations as provided in section 429.101, subdivision 1, provided that a municipality

MINNESOTA STATUTES 1977 SUPPLEMENT

18.023 PLANT AND ANIMAL PEST CONTROL

at its option make any assessment levied payable with interest in installments not to exceed five years from the date of the assessment.

(b) After a contract for the sanitation or approved treatment of trees on private property has been let, or the work commenced, the municipality may issue obligations to defray the expense of any such work financed by special assessments imposed upon private property. Section 429.091 shall apply to such obligations with the following modifications:

(1) Such obligations shall be payable not more than five years from the date of issuance; and

(2) No election shall be required.

Obligations issued under the provisions of this clause shall not be considered bonded indebtedness for the purposes of section 273.13, subdivisions 6 and 7. The certificates shall not be included in the net debt of the issuing municipality.

Subd. 8. **Deposit of proceeds in separate fund.** The proceeds of any tax levied, assessments and interest collected, or any bonds or certificates of indebtedness issued under subdivision 7 and section 275.50, subdivision 6, and any grants received under subdivision 3a, shall be deposited in the municipal treasury in a separate fund and expended only for the purposes authorized by this section.

[For text of subds 9 and 10, see M.S.1976]

Subd. 10a. **Experimental programs.** The commissioner may establish experimental programs for sanitation or treatment of shade tree diseases. The commissioner may make grants to municipalities, or enter into contracts with municipal, state or federal agencies in connection with experimental shade tree programs including research to assist municipalities in establishing priority designation areas in an approved disease control program.

Subd. 11. **Report to the legislature.** On or before January 31 of each year, the commissioner shall report to the legislature on the preceding year's approved disease control programs and any experimental programs conducted pursuant to subdivision 10a.

[For text of subd 12, see M.S.1976]

[1977 c 90 s 1-9]

NOTE: Laws 1977, Chapter 90, Section 13, reads as follows:

"The commissioner may employ and prescribe the duties of three permanent employees in the unclassified service as may be necessary to administer the provisions of section 18.023, subject to appropriation, until June 30, 1978. Thereafter, the three positions shall be in the classified service."

18.69 Budget; limitations.

Pursuant to article IX, clause (a) of the compact, the governing board shall submit its budget to the commissioner of agriculture. Such budget and the state's share thereof shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 16A, and any act amendatory thereof.

[1977 c 410 s 10]