

**CHAPTER 298**  
**OCCUPATION TAXES**

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**298.031 VALUATION OF ORE.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1980]*

Subd. 2. **Value of certain ore; how ascertained.** (1) The taxpayer shall be given a credit in each taxable year upon the occupation tax assessed in such year under Minnesota Statutes 1957, Chapter 298, against a given mine after credit for labor credits has been given, in an amount equal to the occupation tax under said chapter 298 upon an amount produced by multiplying the number of tons of ore sold at a discount by the amount of such discount.

(2) The aggregate amount of all credits allowed under this section to all mines shall not exceed one percent of the aggregate amount of all occupation taxes imposed under section 298.01, subdivision 1, assessed against all mines in the state for said year prior to the deduction of the credit allowed by this section.

(3) The amount of the foregoing subtraction shall be ascertained and determined by the commissioner.

Subd. 3. **Credit, application.** The credit provided by this section shall not be applicable with respect to any mine operated by a mining company or an operating agent

(a) if the net marketable tonnage of iron ores, exclusive of taconite and semi-taconite, produced from all mines operated by such mining company or operating agent exceeds one and one-half percent of the net marketable tonnage of iron ores or concentrates including taconite and semi-taconite, produced in this state during the year for which the tax is being determined, or

(b) if such mining company or operating agent is also engaged in the manufacture of steel, or

(c) if any company manufacturing steel has an interest, either directly or indirectly, through stock ownership in such mining company or operating agent.

The taxpayer shall have the burden of proving its right to the credit provided by this section.

*[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1980]*

**History:** 1Sp1981 c 1 art 10 s 11,12

**298.09 NOTICES; HEARINGS; DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF TAX IS FINAL; CERTIORARI.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 4, see M.S.1980]*

Subd. 5. If before the expiration of the time allowed in subdivision 4 for the redetermination of the tax, the commissioner and the taxpayer consent in writing to an extension of time for the redetermination of the tax, the tax may be

redetermined at any time prior to the expiration of the period agreed upon. The period agreed upon may be extended by subsequent agreements in writing made before the expiration of the period previously agreed upon.

**History:** 1981 c 164 s 7

### **298.15 RECORDS OF COMPANIES TO BE OPEN TO INSPECTION.**

Subdivision 1. All books, way-bills, inventories, correspondence, and memoranda relating to or used in the transaction of the business of any person owning or operating any such mine shall, on demand by the commissioner of revenue, or the commissioner's authorized representatives, be open to inspection or examination. If any one having charge, control, or possession of these papers and books of the owner or operator shall neglect or refuse, on demand of the commissioner of revenue, or the commissioner's authorized representatives, access to these papers and books, that person shall be deemed guilty of a gross misdemeanor; and, upon conviction, punished therefor as provided by law.

Subd. 2. For the purpose of determining the correctness of any return or of determining whether or not any person should have made a return or paid taxes or for the purpose of collection of any of the taxes imposed by this chapter, the commissioner shall have power to examine, or cause to be examined, any books, papers, records, or memoranda, which may be relevant to making the determinations, whether the books, papers, records, or memoranda, are the property of or are in the possession of the person or any other person. The commissioner shall have the power to require the attendance of any person having knowledge or information which may be relevant, to compel the production of books, papers, records, or memoranda by persons so required to attend, to take testimony on matters material to the determination, and to administer oaths or affirmations.

Subd. 3. For the purpose of making examinations and determinations, the commissioner may appoint examiners as deemed necessary. The examiners shall have all the rights and powers conferred upon the commissioner by this section. The clerk of any court of record, upon demand of the commissioner or any examiner, shall issue a subpoena for the attendance of any witness or the production of any books, papers, records or memoranda. The commissioner may also issue subpoenas. Disobedience of subpoenas issued under this section shall be punished by the district court of the district in which the subpoena is issued as for a contempt of the district court.

**History:** 1981 c 164 s 8

### **298.223 TACONITE AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND.**

A fund called the taconite environmental protection fund is created for the purpose of reclaiming, restoring and enhancing those areas of northeast Minnesota located within a tax relief area defined in section 273.134 that are adversely affected by the environmentally damaging operations involved in mining taconite and iron ore and producing iron ore concentrate and for the purpose of promoting the economic development of northeast Minnesota. The taconite environmental protection fund shall be used for the following purposes:

(a) to initiate investigations into matters the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board determines are in need of study and which will determine the environmental problems requiring remedial action;

(b) reclamation, restoration or reforestation of minelands not otherwise provided for by state law;

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(c) local economic development projects including construction of sewer and water systems, and other public works located within a tax relief area defined in section 273.134;

(d) monitoring of mineral industry related health problems among mining employees.

The taconite environmental protection fund shall be administered by the commissioner of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board. The commissioner shall by September 1 of each year prepare a list of projects to be funded from the taconite environmental protection fund, with such supporting information including description of the projects, plans, and cost estimates as may be necessary. Upon recommendation of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, this list shall be submitted to the legislative advisory commission for its review. This list with the recommendation of the legislative advisory commission shall then be transmitted to the governor by November 1 of each year. By December 1 of each year, the governor shall approve or disapprove, or return for further consideration, each individual project. Funds for a project may be expended only upon approval of the project by the governor.

There is hereby annually appropriated to the commissioner of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board such funds as are necessary to carry out the projects approved and such funds as are necessary for administration of this section. Annual administrative costs, not including detailed engineering expenses for the projects, shall not exceed five percent of the amount annually expended from the fund.

Funds for the purposes of this section are provided by section 298.28, subdivision 1, clause (10) relating to the taconite environmental protection fund.

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 4 art 2 s 31*

## 298.225 APPROPRIATION.

If a taconite producer ceases beneficiation operations, either temporarily or permanently, and if the recipients of the taconite production tax as provided in section 298.28, subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (4) and (5)(b) to (8), would receive decreased distributions as a result thereof, then the distribution to these recipients in each of the two years immediately following the year in which operations ceased shall be equal to the amount they received in the last full year before operations ceased. There is hereby appropriated to the commissioner of revenue from the taconite environmental protection fund and the northeast Minnesota economic protection fund in equal proportions the amount needed to make the above payments. If a taconite producer, which ceases beneficiation operations either temporarily or permanently, is required by a special law to make bond payments for a school district, the northeast Minnesota economic protection fund shall assume the payments of the taconite producer if the producer ceases to make the needed payments. There is hereby appropriated from the northeast Minnesota economic protection fund to the commissioner of revenue the amounts needed to make these school bond payments.

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 1 art 10 s 13*

## 298.24 TAX ON TACONITE AND IRON SULPHIDES.

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1980]*

Subd. 3. A credit in the amount of three cents per gross ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate produced shall be allowed against the tax imposed by

subdivision 1, with respect to the production of iron ore concentrate from taconite plants which, together with the lands upon which they are located and lands used in connection with the mining, quarrying and concentration of taconite and buildings, machinery, equipment and other fixtures used in the production of taconite, and notwithstanding the provisions of section 298.25, have by law been made subject to direct taxes for the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued by a school district or city; provided however, that the total amount of credit allowable hereunder with respect to production from any plant subjected to such direct taxes shall not exceed the amount of the direct taxes levied against such plant and payable after January 1, 1969, and until said bonds and the indebtedness secured thereby have been paid in full.

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 1 art 10 s 14*

#### **298.244 LAKE SUPERIOR WATER FILTRATION AND PURIFICATION.**

Subd. 2. (a) For the purposes of this subdivision, the following terms shall have the meanings given them.

(1) "Agency" means the state commissioner of health.

(2) "Municipality" means any city or any other governmental subdivision having the power or duty to provide drinking water and using Lake Superior as the source of the drinking water.

(3) "Eligible cost" includes all costs incurred by a municipality including acquisition of necessary real and personal property, engineering, system cleaning, construction, alteration, improvements, inspection, supervision of construction and all other costs related to the construction and establishment of a permanent water filtration or purification system. Such costs shall be eligible even if incurred prior to June 7, 1975.

(4) "Municipal water purification system" includes all properties, real or personal, determined by a municipality and the state to be necessary for the elimination of polluting or potentially injurious substances from water used for municipal water supply purposes.

(b) There is hereby appropriated from the general fund to the state commissioner of health the sum of \$2,500,000 and an additional amount of \$1,750,000 for a grant program for the construction of water filtration and purification systems for those communities using Lake Superior as a drinking water source. The commissioner of health shall establish a grant program to implement the provisions of this subdivision. This program shall include the disbursement of funds hereinafter described for the construction of the facilities, the creation of guidelines designed to assure that the funds will be disbursed in accord with the purposes of this subdivision, the continued surveillance of the effectiveness of constructed facilities in cooperation with other related state agencies, and other duties of administration necessary to accomplish the purpose of this subdivision. Grants shall be made in accordance with the guidelines created under authority of this subdivision and shall not exceed 33 percent of the eligible project cost.

(c) A Lake Superior water filtration and purification fund is created as a separate bookkeeping account in the general books of account of the state, to record receipts of the proceeds of moneys appropriated to the fund and disbursements of money appropriated from the fund to municipalities for the acquisition and betterment of public land, buildings, and improvements of a capital nature needed for the construction of water filtration and purification systems, in accordance with the purpose of this subdivision. It is determined that state financial assistance for the construction of water filtration and purification facili-

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ties needed to fulfill the purposes of this subdivision is a public purpose and a proper function of state government.

(d) No recipient of financial assistance may receive more than 80 percent of the total amount of funds appropriated in this subdivision. Any recipient of financial assistance shall pursue its remedies under the permits granted to the discharges or subrogate to the state those remedies for purposes of obtaining reimbursement of the state funds expended for the purposes of this subdivision. The commissioner of health shall at the time of any disbursement of funds under this subdivision enter into necessary agreements for reimbursement. Any amounts recovered pursuant to this subdivision shall be credited to and disbursed as provided in section 298.28, subdivision 1, clause (4), part (a).

(e) This subdivision of Laws 1975, Chapter 437, Article XI, Section 2 is effective on June 7, 1975. The \$2,500,000 in funds appropriated pursuant to this subdivision are available as of July 1, 1975. The additional amount of \$1,750,000 appropriated pursuant to this subdivision shall be available July 1, 1977.

(f) The additional \$1,750,000 appropriated by this subdivision shall be repaid to the general fund from proceeds of the tax imposed by section 298.24, subdivision 2.

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 155*

## 298.28 DIVISION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS.

Subdivision 1. The proceeds of the taxes collected under section 298.24, except the tax collected under section 298.24, subdivision 2, shall, upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue to the general fund of the state, be paid by the commissioner of revenue as follows:

(1) 2.5 cents per gross ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate, hereinafter referred to as "taxable ton", to the city or town in which the lands from which taconite was mined or quarried were located or within which the concentrate was produced. If the mining, quarrying, and concentration, or different steps in either thereof are carried on in more than one taxing district, the commissioner shall apportion equitably the proceeds of the part of the tax going to cities and towns among such subdivisions upon the basis of attributing 40 percent of the proceeds of the tax to the operation of mining or quarrying the taconite, and the remainder to the concentrating plant and to the processes of concentration, and with respect to each thereof giving due consideration to the relative extent of such operations performed in each such taxing district. His order making such apportionment shall be subject to review by the tax court at the instance of any of the interested taxing districts, in the same manner as other orders of the commissioner.

(2) 12.5 cents per taxable ton, less any amount distributed under clause (8), to the taconite municipal aid account in the apportionment fund of the state treasury, to be distributed as provided in section 298.282.

(3) 29 cents per taxable ton plus the increase provided in paragraph (c) to qualifying school districts to be distributed as follows:

(a) Six cents per taxable ton to the school districts in which the lands from which taconite was mined or quarried were located or within which the concentrate was produced. The commissioner shall follow the apportionment formula prescribed in clause (1).

(b) 23 cents per taxable ton, less any amount distributed under part (d), shall be distributed to a group of school districts comprised of those school districts wherein the taconite was mined or quarried or the concentrate produced or in

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which there is a qualifying municipality as defined by section 273.134 in direct proportion to school district tax levies as follows: each district shall receive that portion of the total distribution which its permitted levy for the prior year, computed pursuant to section 275.125, comprises of the sum of permitted levies for the prior year for all qualifying districts, computed pursuant to section 275.125. For purposes of distributions pursuant to this part, permitted levies for the prior year computed pursuant to section 275.125 shall not include the amount of any increased levy authorized by referendum pursuant to section 275.125, subdivision 2d.

(c) On July 15, 1982 and on July 15 in subsequent years, an amount equal to the increase derived by increasing the amount determined by clause (3)(b) in the same proportion as the increase in the steel mill products index over the base year of 1977 as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1, clause (a), shall be distributed to any school district described in clause (3)(b) where a levy increase pursuant to section 275.125, subdivision 2d, is authorized by referendum, according to the following formula. Each district shall receive the product of:

(i) \$150 times the pupil units identified in section 124.17, subdivision 1, clauses (1) and (2), enrolled in the previous school year, less the product of two mills times the district's taxable valuation in the second previous year; times

(ii) the lesser of:

(A) one, or

(B) the ratio of the amount certified pursuant to section 275.125, subdivision 2d, in the previous year, to the product of two mills times the district's taxable valuation in the second previous year.

If the total amount provided by clause (3)(c) is insufficient to make the payments herein required then the entitlement of \$150 per pupil unit shall be reduced uniformly so as not to exceed the funds available. Any amounts received by a qualifying school district in any fiscal year pursuant to clause (3)(c) shall not be applied to reduce foundation aids which the district is entitled to receive pursuant to section 124.212 or the permissible levies of the district. Any amount remaining after the payments provided in this paragraph shall be paid to the commissioner of finance who shall deposit the same in the taconite environmental protection fund and the northeast Minnesota economic protection fund as provided in section 298.28, subdivision 1, clause 10.

(d) There shall be distributed to any school district the amount which the school district was entitled to receive under section 298.32 in 1975.

(4) 19.5 cents per taxable ton to counties to be distributed as follows:

(a) 15.5 cents per taxable ton shall be distributed to the county in which the taconite is mined or quarried or in which the concentrate is produced, less any amount which is to be distributed pursuant to part (b). The commissioner shall follow the apportionment formula prescribed in clause (1).

(b) If an electric power plant owned by and providing the primary source of power for a taxpayer mining and concentrating taconite is located in a county other than the county in which the mining and the concentrating processes are conducted, one cent per taxable ton of the tax distributed to the counties pursuant to part (a) and imposed on and collected from such taxpayer shall be distributed by the commissioner of revenue to the county in which the power plant is located.

(c) Four cents per taxable ton shall be paid to the county from which the taconite was mined, quarried or concentrated to be deposited in the county road and bridge fund. If the mining, quarrying and concentrating, or separate steps in

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any of those processes are carried on in more than one county, the commissioner shall follow the apportionment formula prescribed in clause (1).

(5) (a) 25.75 cents per taxable ton, less any amount required to be distributed under part (b), to the taconite property tax relief account in the apportionment fund in the state treasury, to be distributed as provided in sections 273.134 to 273.136.

(b) If an electric power plant owned by and providing the primary source of power for a taxpayer mining and concentrating taconite is located in a county other than the county in which the mining and the concentrating processes are conducted, .75 cent per taxable ton of the tax imposed and collected from such taxpayer shall be distributed by the commissioner of revenue to the county and school district in which the power plant is located as follows: 25 percent to the county and 75 percent to the school district.

(6) One cent per taxable ton to the state for the cost of administering the tax imposed by section 298.24.

(7) Three cents per taxable ton shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the iron range resources and rehabilitation board account in the special revenue fund for the purposes of section 298.22. The amount determined in this clause shall be increased in 1981 and subsequent years in the same proportion as the increase in the steel mill products index as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1. The amount distributed pursuant to this clause shall be expended within or for the benefit of a tax relief area defined in section 273.134. No part of the fund provided in this clause may be used to provide loans for the operation of private business unless the loan is approved by the governor and the legislative advisory commission.

(8) .20 cent per taxable ton shall be paid in 1979 and each year thereafter, to the range association of municipalities and schools, for the purpose of providing an area wide approach to problems which demand coordinated and cooperative actions and which are common to those areas of northeast Minnesota affected by operations involved in mining iron ore and taconite and producing concentrate therefrom, and for the purpose of promoting the general welfare and economic development of the cities, towns and school districts within the iron range area of northeast Minnesota.

(9) the amounts determined under clauses (4)(a), (4)(c), and (5) shall be increased in 1979 and subsequent years in the same proportion as the increase in the steel mill products index as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1.

(10) the proceeds of the tax imposed by section 298.24 which remain after the distributions in clauses (1) to (9) and parts (a) and (b) of this clause have been made shall be divided between the taconite environmental protection fund created in section 298.223 and the northeast Minnesota economic protection fund created in section 298.292 as follows: In 1981 and each year thereafter, two-thirds to the taconite environmental protection fund and one-third to the northeast Minnesota economic protection fund. The proceeds shall be placed in the respective special accounts in the general fund.

(a) In 1978 and each year thereafter, there shall be distributed to each city, town, school district, and county the amount that they received under section 294.26 in calendar year 1977.

(b) In 1978 and each year thereafter, there shall be distributed to the iron range resources and rehabilitation board the amounts it received in 1977 under section 298.22.

On or before October 10 of each calendar year each producer of taconite or iron sulphides subject to taxation under section 298.24 (hereinafter called "taxpayer") shall file with the commissioner of revenue and with the county auditor of each county in which such taxpayer operates, and with the chief clerical officer of each school district, city or town which is entitled to participate in the distribution of the tax, an estimate of the amount of tax which would be payable by such taxpayer under said law for such calendar year; provided such estimate shall be in an amount not less than the amount due on the mining and production of concentrates up to September 30 of said year plus the amount becoming due because of probable production between September 30 and December 31 of said year, less any credit allowable as hereinafter provided. Such estimate shall list the taxing districts entitled to participate in the distribution of such tax, and the amount of the estimated tax which would be distributable to each such district in the next ensuing calendar year on the basis of the last percentage distribution certified by the commissioner of revenue. If there be no such prior certification, the taxpayer shall set forth its estimate of the proper distribution of such tax under the law, which estimate may be corrected by the commissioner if he deems it improper, notice of such correction being given by him to the taxpayer and the public officers receiving such estimate. The officers with whom such report is so filed shall use the amount so indicated as being distributable to each taxing district in computing the permissible tax levy of such county, city or school district in the year in which such estimate is made, and payable in the next ensuing calendar year, except that in 1978 and 1979 two cents per taxable ton, and in 1980 and thereafter, one cent per taxable ton of the amount distributed under clause (4)(c) shall not be deducted in calculating the permissible levy. Such taxpayer shall then pay, at the times payments are required to be made pursuant to section 298.27, as the amount of tax payable under section 298.24, the greater of (a) the amount shown by such estimate, or (b) the amount due under said section as finally determined by the commissioner of revenue pursuant to law. If, as a result of the payment of the amount of such estimate, the taxpayer has paid in any calendar year an amount of tax in excess of the amount due in such year under section 298.24, after application of credits for any excess payments made in previous years, all as determined by the commissioner of revenue, the taxpayer shall be given credit for such excess amount against any taxes which, under said section, may become due from the taxpayer in subsequent years. In any calendar year in which a general property tax levy subject to sections 275.125 or 275.50 to 275.59 has been made, if the taxes distributable to any such county, city or school district are greater than the amount estimated to be paid to any such county, city or school district in such year, the excess of such distribution shall be held in a special fund by the county, city or school district and shall not be expended until the succeeding calendar year, and shall be included in computing the permissible levies under sections 275.125 or 275.50 to 275.59, of such county, city or school district payable in such year. If the amounts distributable to any such county, city or school district, after final determination by the commissioner of revenue under this section are less than the amounts indicated by such estimates, such county, city or school district may issue certificates of indebtedness in the amount of the shortage, and may include in its next tax levy, in excess of the limitations of sections 275.125 or 275.50 to 275.59 an amount sufficient to pay such certificates of indebtedness and interest thereon, or, if no certificates were issued, an amount equal to such shortage.

There is hereby annually appropriated to such taxing districts as are stated herein, to the taconite property tax relief account and to the taconite municipal aid account in the apportionment fund in the state treasury, to the department of

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revenue, to the iron range resources and rehabilitation board, to the range association of municipalities and schools, to the taconite environmental protection fund, and to the northeast Minnesota economic protection fund, from any fund or account in the state treasury to which the money was credited, an amount sufficient to make the payment or transfer. The payment of the amount appropriated to such taxing districts shall be made by the commissioner of revenue on or before May 15 annually.

Subd. 2. In distributing the proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.24, the commissioner of revenue shall deduct the amount of any credits authorized under section 298.24, subdivision 3, against the tax imposed under subdivision 1 of said section, from the amount which would otherwise have been distributed to the northeast Minnesota economic protection fund in the apportionment fund in the state treasury under subdivision 1 of this section.

*[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1980]*

**History:** 1981 c 358 art 1 s 43; 1Sp1981 c 1 art 10 s 15,16

## 298.48 MINERAL RIGHTS; EXPLORATION DATA; FILING REQUIREMENTS; PENALTIES.

*[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1980]*

Subd. 4. **Confidential nature of information.** The data filed pursuant to subdivision 1 shall be considered confidential for three years from the date it is filed with the commissioner. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit the commissioner from disclosing information or publishing statistics so classified as not to disclose the identity of particular data.

Notwithstanding the other provisions of this subdivision, the commissioner, at his discretion, may furnish any information supplied under this section to the commissioner of natural resources, the commissioner of energy, planning and development, or a county assessor. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

**History:** 1981 c 356 s 193

## 298.75 GRAVEL REMOVAL; PRODUCTION TAX.

Subdivision 1. A county may impose upon every person, firm, corporation or association, hereafter referred to as "operator," engaged in the business of removing gravel for sale from gravel pits or deposits, a production tax in an amount not to exceed ten cents per cubic yard of gravel removed. For purposes of this section, gravel shall include sand and limestone.

Subd. 2. By the 14th day following the last day of each calendar quarter in each county in which a tax is imposed pursuant to this section or any special law, every operator shall make and file with the county auditor of the county in which the gravel is removed, a correct report under oath, in such form and containing such information as the auditor shall require relative to the quantity of gravel removed during the preceding calendar quarter. The report shall be accompanied by a remittance of the amount of tax due.

Subd. 3. If any operator fails to make the report required by subdivision 2 or files an erroneous report, the county auditor shall, on the fifth working day after the day the report became due, determine the amount of tax due and notify the operator by registered mail of the amount of tax so determined. An operator may, within 30 days from the date of mailing the notice, file in the office of the

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county auditor a written statement of objections to the amount of taxes determined to be due. The statement of objections shall be deemed to be a petition within the meaning of chapter 278, and shall be governed by sections 278.02 to 278.13.

*[For text of subds 4 to 6, see M.S.1980]*

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 1 art 10 s 17-19*

## **298.76 LOCAL LAWS, APPLICATION.**

Section 298.75 shall not supersede any local law, except that the provisions of section 298.75, subdivisions 2 and 3, shall supersede the provisions of any local law.

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 1 art 10 s 20*