

# MINNESOTA STATUTES 1981 SUPPLEMENT

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GENERAL SALES TAX AND DISTRIBUTION THEREOF 297A.01

## CHAPTER 297A

### GENERAL SALES TAX AND DISTRIBUTION THEREOF

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#### 297A.01 DEFINITIONS.

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

Subd. 3. A "sale" and a "purchase" includes, but is not limited to, each of the following transactions:

(a) Any transfer of title or possession, or both, of tangible personal property, whether absolutely or conditionally, and the leasing of or the granting of a license to use or consume tangible personal property, for a consideration in money or by exchange or barter;

(b) The production, fabrication, printing or processing of tangible personal property for a consideration for consumers who furnish either directly or indirectly the materials used in the production, fabrication, printing or processing;

(c) The furnishing, preparing or serving for a consideration of food, meals or drinks, not including hospitals, sanatoriums, nursing homes or senior citizens homes, meals or drinks purchased for and served exclusively to individuals who are 60 years of age or over and their spouses or to the handicapped and their spouses by governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, agencies, or churches or pursuant to any program funded in whole or part through 42 USCA sections 3001 through 3045, wherever delivered, prepared or served, meals and lunches served at public and private schools, universities or colleges, or the occasional meal thereof by a charitable or church organization;

(d) The granting of the privilege of admission to places of amusement or athletic events and the privilege of use of amusement devices or athletic facilities;

(e) The furnishing for a consideration of lodging and related services by a hotel, rooming house, tourist court, motel or trailer camp and of the granting of any similar license to use real property other than the renting or leasing thereof for a continuous period of 30 days or more;

(f) The furnishing for a consideration of electricity, gas, water, or steam for use or consumption within this state, or local exchange telephone service and intrastate toll service except such service provided by means of coin operated telephones; the tax imposed on amounts paid for telephone services is the liability of and shall be paid by the person paying for the services. Sales by municipal corporations in a proprietary capacity are included in the provisions of this clause. The furnishing of water and sewer services for residential use shall not be considered a sale.

*[For text of subs 4 to 14, see M.S.1980]*

Subd. 15. "Farm machinery" means new or used machinery, equipment, implements, accessories and contrivances used directly and principally in the

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production for sale, but not including the processing, of livestock, dairy animals, dairy products, poultry and poultry products, fruits, vegetables, forage, grains and bees and apiary products. "Farm machinery" shall include machinery for the preparation, seeding or cultivation of soil for growing agricultural crops, harvesting and threshing of agricultural products, and certain machinery for dairy, livestock and poultry farms, together with barn cleaners, milking systems, grain dryers, automatic feeding systems and similar installations. Irrigation equipment sold for exclusively agricultural use, including pumps, pipe fittings, valves, sprinklers and other equipment necessary to the operation of an irrigation system when sold as part of an irrigation system, except irrigation equipment which is situated below ground and considered to be a part of the real property, shall be included in the definition of farm machinery. Repair or replacement parts for farm machinery shall not be included in the definition of farm machinery.

Tools, shop equipment, grain bins, feed bunks, fencing material, communication equipment and other farm supplies shall not be considered to be farm machinery. "Farm machinery" does not include motor vehicles taxed under chapter 297B, snowmobiles, snow blowers, lawn mowers, garden-type tractors or garden tillers and the repair and replacement parts for those vehicles and machines.

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

## 297A.02 IMPOSITION OF TAX.

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, there is hereby imposed an excise tax of four percent of the gross receipts from sales at retail, as hereinbefore defined, made by any person in this state, except that for sales at retail made after June 30, 1981 and prior to July 1, 1983, except sales of farm machinery, the rate shall be five percent.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the tax imposed hereby upon sales at retail through coin-operated vending machines shall be three percent of the gross receipts of such sales.

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 1 art 4 s 3*

## 297A.03 SEPARATE STATEMENT; COLLECTION FROM PURCHASER; ADVERTISING NO TAX; MINIMUM; UNIFORM TAX COLLECTION METHODS.

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

Subd. 2. It shall be unlawful for any retailer to advertise or hold out or state to the public or any customer, directly or indirectly, that the tax or any part thereof will be assumed or absorbed by the retailer, or that it will not be added to the sales price or that, if added, it or any part thereof will be refunded except that in computing the tax to be collected as the result of any transaction amounts of tax less than one-half of one cent may be disregarded and amounts of tax if one-half cent or more may be considered an additional cent. If the sales price of any sale at retail is 12 cents or less, or if the sales price of any sale at retail made after June 30, 1981 and prior to July 1, 1983, is nine cents or less, no tax shall be collected. Any person violating this provision shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

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

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

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## **297A.14 USING, STORING OR CONSUMING TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY; ADMISSIONS; UTILITIES.**

For the privilege of using, storing or consuming in Minnesota tangible personal property, tickets or admissions to places of amusement and athletic events, electricity, gas, and local exchange telephone service purchased for use, storage or consumption in this state, there is hereby imposed on every person in this state a use tax at the rate of four percent of the sales price of sales at retail of any of the aforementioned items made to such person unless the tax imposed by section 297A.02 was paid on said sales price, except that for sales at retail of any of the aforementioned items made after June 30, 1981 and prior to July 1, 1983, except sales of farm machinery, the rate shall be five percent.

Motor vehicles subject to tax under this section shall be taxed at the fair market value at the time of transport into Minnesota if such motor vehicles were acquired more than three months prior to its transport into this state.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of sections 297A.01 to 297A.44 to the contrary, the cost of paper and ink products exceeding \$100,000 in any calendar year, used or consumed in producing a publication as defined in section 297A.25, subdivision 1, clause (i) is subject to the tax imposed by this section.

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 1 art 4 s 5*

## **297A.24 TAXES IN OTHER STATES.**

If any article of tangible personal property or any item enumerated in section 297A.14 has already been subjected to a tax by any other state in respect of its sale, storage, use or other consumption in an amount less than the tax imposed by sections 297A.01 to 297A.44, then as to the person who paid the tax in such other state, the provisions of section 297A.14 shall apply only at a rate measured by the difference between the rate herein fixed and the rate by which the previous tax was computed. If such tax imposed in such other state was equal to or greater than the tax imposed in this state, then no tax shall be due from such person under section 297A.14.

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 1 art 4 s 6*

## **297A.25 EXEMPTIONS.**

Subdivision 1. The following are specifically exempted from the taxes imposed by sections 297A.01 to 297A.44:

(a) The gross receipts from the sale of food products including but not limited to cereal and cereal products, butter, cheese, milk and milk products, oleomargarine, meat and meat products, fish and fish products, eggs and egg products, vegetables and vegetable products, fruit and fruit products, spices and salt, sugar and sugar products, coffee and coffee substitutes, tea, cocoa and cocoa products, but not including foods which are prepared or specially sliced, wrapped, arranged or displayed, and sold cold or hot for immediate consumption on or off the premises on which the sale is made, whether sold in individual servings or in larger quantities, except food products which are not taxable pursuant to section 297A.01, subdivision 3, clause (c) and which are sold by a retailer, organized as a nonprofit corporation or association, within a place located on property owned by the state or an agency or instrumentality of the state, the entrance to which is subject to an admission charge;

(b) The gross receipts from the sale of prescribed drugs and medicine intended for use, internal or external, in the cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of illness or disease in human beings and products consumed by humans for the

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preservation of health, including prescription glasses, uherapeutic and prosthetic devices, but not including cosmetics or toilet articles notwithstanding the presence of medicinal ingredients therein;

(c) The gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use or other consumption in Minnesota of tangible personal property, tickets, or admissions, electricity, gas, or local exchange telephone service, which under the Constitution or laws of the United States or under the Constitution of Minnesota, the state of Minnesota is prohibited from taxing;

(d) The gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property (i) which, without intermediate use, is shipped or transported outside Minnesota and thereafter used in a trade or business or is stored, processed, fabricated or manufactured into, attached to or incorporated into other tangible personal property transported or shipped outside Minnesota and thereafter used in a trade or business outside Minnesota, and which is not thereafter returned to a point within Minnesota, except in the course of interstate commerce (storage shall not constitute intermediate use); or (ii) which the seller delivers to a common carrier for delivery outside Minnesota, places in the United States mail or parcel post directed to the purchaser outside Minnesota, or delivers to the purchaser outside Minnesota by means of the seller's own delivery vehicles, and which is not thereafter returned to a point within Minnesota, except in the course of interstate commerce;

(e) The gross receipts from the sale of packing materials used to pack and ship household goods, the ultimate destination of which is outside the state of Minnesota and which are not thereafter returned to a point within Minnesota, except in the course of interstate commerce;

(f) The gross receipts from the sale of and storage, use or consumption of petroleum products upon which a tax has been imposed under the provisions of chapter 296, whether or not any part of said tax may be subsequently refunded;

(g) The gross receipts from the sale of clothing and wearing apparel except the following:

(i) all articles commonly or commercially known as jewelry, whether real or imitation; pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, and imitations thereof; articles made of, or ornamented, mounted or fitted with precious metals or imitations thereof; watches; clocks; cases and movements for watches and clocks; gold, gold-plated, silver, or sterling flatware or hollow ware and silver-plated hollow ware; opera glasses; lorgnettes; marine glasses; field glasses and binoculars.

(ii) articles made of fur on the hide or pelt, and articles of which such fur is the component material or chief value, but only if such value is more than three times the value of the next most valuable component material.

(iii) perfume, essences, extracts, toilet waters, cosmetics, petroleum jellies, hair oils, pomades, hair dressings, hair restoratives, hair dyes, aromatic cachous and toilet powders. The tax imposed by this act shall not apply to lotion, oil, powder, or other article intended to be used or applied only in the case of babies.

(iv) trunks, valises, traveling bags, suitcases, satchels, overnight bags, hat boxes for use by travelers, beach bags, bathing suit bags, brief cases made of leather or imitation leather, salesmen's sample and display cases, purses, handbags, pocketbooks, wallets, billfolds, card, pass, and key cases and toilet cases.

(h) The gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use, or consumption of all materials, including chemicals, fuels, petroleum products, lubricants, packaging materials, including returnable containers used in packaging food and beverage

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products, feeds, seeds, fertilizers, electricity, gas and steam, used or consumed in agricultural or industrial production of personal property intended to be sold ultimately at retail, whether or not the item so used becomes an ingredient or constituent part of the property produced. Such production shall include, but is not limited to, research, development, design or production of any tangible personal property, manufacturing, processing (other than by restaurants and consumers) of agricultural products whether vegetable or animal, commercial fishing, refining, smelting, reducing, brewing, distilling, printing, mining, quarrying, lumbering, generating electricity and the production of road building materials. Such production shall not include painting, cleaning, repairing or similar processing of property except as part of the original manufacturing process. Machinery, equipment, implements, tools, accessories, appliances, contrivances, furniture and fixtures, used in such production and fuel, electricity, gas or steam used for space heating or lighting, are not included within this exemption; however, accessory tools, equipment and other short lived items, which are separate detachable units used in producing a direct effect upon the product, where such items have an ordinary useful life of less than 12 months, are included within the exemption provided herein;

(i) The gross receipts from the sale of and storage, use or other consumption in Minnesota of tangible personal property (except as provided in section 297A.14) which is used or consumed in producing any publication regularly issued at average intervals not exceeding three months, and any such publication. For purposes of this subsection, "publication" as used herein shall include, without limiting the foregoing, a legal newspaper as defined by Minnesota Statutes 1965, Section 331.02, and any supplements or enclosures with or part of said newspaper; and the gross receipts of any advertising contained therein or therewith shall be exempt. For this purpose, advertising in any such publication shall be deemed to be a service and not tangible personal property, and persons or their agents who publish or sell such newspapers shall be deemed to be engaging in a service with respect to gross receipts realized from such newsgathering or publishing activities by them, including the sale of advertising. Machinery, equipment, implements, tools, accessories, appliances, contrivances, furniture and fixtures used in such publication and fuel, electricity, gas or steam used for space heating or lighting, are not exempt;

(j) The gross receipts from all sales of tangible personal property to, and all storage, use or consumption of such property by, the United States and its agencies and instrumentalities or a state and its agencies, instrumentalities and political subdivisions;

(k) The gross receipts from the isolated or occasional sale of tangible personal property in Minnesota not made in the normal course of business of selling that kind of property, and the storage, use, or consumption of property acquired as a result of such a sale;

(l) The gross receipts from sales of rolling stock and the storage, use or other consumption of such property by railroads, freight line companies, sleeping car companies and express companies taxed on the gross earnings basis in lieu of ad valorem taxes. For purposes of this clause "rolling stock" is defined as the portable or moving apparatus and machinery of any such company which moves on the road, and includes, but is not limited to, engines, cars, tenders, coaches, sleeping cars and parts necessary for the repair and maintenance of such rolling stock.

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(m) The gross receipts from sales of airflight equipment and the storage, use or other consumption of such property by airline companies taxed under the provisions of sections 270.071 to 270.079. For purposes of this clause, "airflight equipment" includes airplanes and parts necessary for the repair and maintenance of such airflight equipment, and flight simulators.

(n) The gross receipts from the sale of telephone central office telephone equipment used in furnishing intrastate and interstate telephone service to the public.

(o) The gross receipts from the sale of and the storage, use or other consumption by persons taxed under the in lieu provisions of chapter 298, of mill liners, grinding rods and grinding balls which are substantially consumed in the production of taconite, the material of which primarily is added to and becomes a part of the material being processed.

(p) The gross receipts from the sale of tangible personal property to, and the storage, use or other consumption of such property by, any corporation, society, association, foundation, or institution organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious or educational purposes if the property purchased is to be used in the performance of charitable, religious or educational functions, or any senior citizen group or association of groups that in general limits membership to persons age 55 or older and is organized and operated exclusively for pleasure, recreation and other nonprofit purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholders;

(q) The gross receipts from the sale of caskets and burial vaults;

(r) The gross receipts from the sale of cigarettes.

(s) The gross receipts from the sale of an automobile or other conveyance if the purchaser is assisted by a grant from the United States in accordance with 38 United States Code, Section 1901, as amended.

(t) The gross receipts from the sale to the licensed aircraft dealer of an aircraft for which a commercial use permit has been issued pursuant to section 360.654, if the aircraft is resold while the permit is in effect.

(u) The gross receipts from the sale of building materials to be used in the construction or remodeling of a residence when the construction or remodeling is financed in whole or in part by the United States in accordance with 38 United States Code, Sections 801 to 805, as amended. This exemption shall not be effective at time of sale of the materials to contractors, subcontractors, builders or owners, but shall be applicable only upon a claim for refund to the commissioner of revenue filed by recipients of the benefits provided in Title 38 United States Code, Chapter 21, as amended. The commissioner shall provide by regulation for the refund of taxes paid on sales exempt in accordance with this paragraph.

(v) The gross receipts from the sale of textbooks which are prescribed for use in conjunction with a course of study in a public or private school, college, university and business or trade school to students who are regularly enrolled at such institutions. For purposes of this clause a "public school" is defined as one that furnishes course of study, enrollment and staff that meets standards of the state board of education and a private school is one which under the standards of the state board of education, provides an education substantially equivalent to that furnished at a public school. Business and trade schools shall mean such schools licensed pursuant to section 141.25.

(w) The gross receipts from the sale of and the storage of material designed to advertise and promote the sale of merchandise or services, which material is

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purchased and stored for the purpose of subsequently shipping or otherwise transferring outside the state by the purchaser for use thereafter solely outside the state of Minnesota.

(x) The gross receipt from the sale of residential heating fuels in the following manner:

(i) all fuel oil, coal, wood, steam, propane gas, and L.P. gas sold to residential customers for residential use;

(ii) natural gas sold for residential use to customers who are metered and billed as residential users and who use natural gas for their primary source of residential heat, for the billing months of November, December, January, February, March and April;

(iii) electricity sold for residential use to customers who are metered and billed as residential users and who use electricity for their primary source of residential heat, for the billing months of November, December, January, February, March and April.

(y) The gross receipts from the sale or use of tickets or admissions to the premises of or events sponsored by an association, corporation or other group of persons which provides an opportunity for citizens of the state to participate in the creation, performance or appreciation of the arts and which qualifies as a tax-exempt organization within the meaning of section 290.05, subdivision 1, clause (i).

(z) The gross receipts from either the sales to or the storage, use or consumption of tangible personal property by an organization of military service veterans or an auxiliary unit of an organization of military service veterans, provided that:

(i) the organization or auxiliary unit is organized within the state of Minnesota and is exempt from federal taxation pursuant to section 501(c), clause (19), of the Internal Revenue Code as amended through December 31, 1978; and

(ii) the tangible personal property which is sold to or stored, used or consumed by the organization or auxiliary unit is for charitable, civic, educational, or nonprofit uses and not for social, recreational, pleasure or profit uses.

(aa) The gross receipts from the sale of sanitary napkins, tampons, or similar items used for feminine hygiene.

*[For text of subds 2 to 5, see M.S.1980]*

**History:** *1Sp1981 c 1 art 4 s 7*