

## CHAPTER 272

## TAXATION, GENERAL PROVISIONS

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**272.01 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 2. (a) When any real or personal property which for any reason is exempt from ad valorem taxes, and taxes in lieu thereof, is leased, loaned, or otherwise made available and used by a private individual, association, or corporation in connection with a business conducted for profit, there shall be imposed a tax, for the privilege of so using or possessing such real or personal property, in the same amount and to the same extent as though the lessee or user was the owner of such property.

(b) The tax imposed by this subdivision shall not apply to (1) property leased or used by way of a concession in or relative to the use in whole or part of a public park, market, fairgrounds, port authority, economic development authority established under chapter 458C, municipal auditorium, municipal museum or municipal stadium or (2) property constituting or used as a public pedestrian ramp or concourse in connection with a public airport.

(c) Taxes imposed by this subdivision shall be due and payable as in the case of personal property taxes and such taxes shall be assessed to such lessees or users of real or personal property in the same manner as taxes assessed to owners of real or personal property, except that such taxes shall not become a lien against the property. When due, the taxes shall constitute a debt due from the lessee or user to the state, township, city, county and school district for which the taxes were assessed and shall be collected in the same manner as personal property taxes. If property subject to the tax imposed by this subdivision is leased or used jointly by two or more persons, each lessee or user shall be jointly and severally liable for payment of the tax.

Subd. 3. The provisions of subdivision 2 shall not apply to:

(a) Federal property for which payments are made in lieu of taxes in amounts equivalent to taxes which might otherwise be lawfully assessed;

(b) Real estate exempt from ad valorem taxes and taxes in lieu thereof which is leased, loaned, or otherwise made available to telephone companies or electric, light and power companies upon which personal property consisting of transmission and distribution lines is situated and assessed pursuant to sections 273.37, 273.38, 273.40 and 273.41, or upon which are situated the communication lines of express, railway, telephone or telegraph companies, and pipelines used for the transmission and distribution of petroleum products;

(c) Property presently owned by any educational institution chartered by the territorial legislature;

(d) Indian lands;

(e) Property of any corporation organized as a tribal corporation under the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, (Statutes at Large, volume 48, page 984);

(f) Real property owned by the state and leased pursuant to section 161.23 and acts amendatory thereto;

(g) Real property owned by a seaway port authority on June 1, 1967, upon which there has been constructed docks, warehouses, tank farms, administrative and maintenance buildings, railroad and ship terminal facilities and other maritime and transportation facilities or those directly related thereto, together with facilities for the handling

of passengers and baggage and for the handling of freight and bulk liquids, and personal property owned by a seaway port authority used or usable in connection therewith, when said property is leased to a private individual, association or corporation, but only when such lease provides that the said facilities are available to the public for the loading and unloading of passengers and their baggage and the handling, storage, care, shipment, and delivery of merchandise, freight and baggage and other maritime and transportation activities and functions directly related thereto, but not including property used for grain elevator facilities; it being the declared policy of this state that such property when so leased is public property used exclusively for a public purpose, notwithstanding the one-year limitation in the provisions of section 273.19;

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (g), when the annual rental received by a seaway port authority in any calendar year for such leased property exceeds an amount reasonably required for administrative expense of the authority per year, plus promotional expense for the authority not to exceed the sum of \$100,000 per year, to be expended when and in the manner decided upon by the commissioners, plus an amount sufficient to pay all installments of principal and interest due, or to become due, during such calendar year and the next succeeding year on any revenue bonds issued by the authority, plus 25 percent of the gross annual rental to be retained by the authority for improvement, development, or other contingencies, the authority shall make a payment in lieu of real and personal property taxes of a reasonable portion of the remaining annual rental to the county treasurer of the county in which such seaway port authority is principally located. Any such payments to the county treasurer shall be disbursed by the treasurer on the same basis as real estate taxes are divided among the various governmental units, but if such port authority shall have received funds from the state of Minnesota and funds from any city and county pursuant to Laws 1957, chapters 648, 831 and 849 and acts amendatory thereof, then such disbursement by the county treasurer shall be on the same basis as real estate taxes are divided among the various governmental units, except that the portion of such payments which would otherwise go to other taxing units shall be divided equally among the state of Minnesota and said county and city.

*[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 268 art 8 s 1,2

## **272.02 EXEMPT PROPERTY.**

Subdivision 1. All property described in this section to the extent herein limited shall be exempt from taxation:

- (1) all public burying grounds;
- (2) all public schoolhouses;
- (3) all public hospitals;
- (4) all academies, colleges, and universities, and all seminaries of learning;
- (5) all churches, church property, and houses of worship;
- (6) institutions of purely public charity except parcels of property containing structures and the structures described in section 273.13, subdivision 25, paragraph (c), clause (1) or (2), or paragraph (d), clause (2);
- (7) all public property exclusively used for any public purpose;
- (8) except for the taxable personal property enumerated below, all personal property and the property described in section 272.03, subdivision 1, paragraphs (c) and (d) shall be exempt.

The following personal property shall be taxable:

- (a) personal property which is part of an electric generating, transmission, or distribution system or a pipeline system transporting or distributing water, gas, crude oil, or petroleum products or mains and pipes used in the distribution of steam or hot or chilled water for heating or cooling buildings and structures;

(b) railroad docks and wharves which are part of the operating property of a railroad company as defined in section 270.80;

(c) personal property defined in section 272.03, subdivision 2, clause (3);

(d) leasehold or other personal property interests which are taxed pursuant to section 272.01, subdivision 2; 273.124, subdivision 7; or 273.19, subdivision 1; or any other law providing the property is taxable as if the lessee or user were the fee owner;

(e) manufactured homes and sectional structures; and

(f) flight property as defined in section 270.071.

(9) Real and personal property used primarily for the abatement and control of air, water, or land pollution to the extent that it is so used, other than real property used primarily as a solid waste disposal site.

Any taxpayer requesting exemption of all or a portion of any equipment or device, or part thereof, operated primarily for the control or abatement of air or water pollution shall file an application with the commissioner of revenue. The equipment or device shall meet standards, rules or criteria prescribed by the Minnesota pollution control agency, and must be installed or operated in accordance with a permit or order issued by that agency. The Minnesota pollution control agency shall upon request of the commissioner furnish information or advice to the commissioner. On determining that property qualifies for exemption, the commissioner shall issue an order exempting the property from taxation. The equipment or device shall continue to be exempt from taxation as long as the permit issued by the Minnesota pollution control agency remains in effect.

(10) Wetlands. For purposes of this subdivision, "wetlands" means (1) land described in section 105.37, subdivision 15, or (2) land which is mostly under water, produces little if any income, and has no use except for wildlife or water conservation purposes, provided it is preserved in its natural condition and drainage of it would be legal, feasible, and economically practical for the production of livestock, dairy animals, poultry, fruit, vegetables, forage and grains, except wild rice. "Wetlands" shall include adjacent land which is not suitable for agricultural purposes due to the presence of the wetlands. "Wetlands" shall not include woody swamps containing shrubs or trees, wet meadows, meandered water, streams, rivers, and floodplains or river bottoms. Exemption of wetlands from taxation pursuant to this section shall not grant the public any additional or greater right of access to the wetlands or diminish any right of ownership to the wetlands.

(11) Native prairie. The commissioner of the department of natural resources shall determine lands in the state which are native prairie and shall notify the county assessor of each county in which the lands are located. Pasture land used for livestock grazing purposes shall not be considered native prairie for the purposes of this clause and section 273.116. Upon receipt of an application for the exemption and credit provided in this clause and section 273.116 for lands for which the assessor has no determination from the commissioner of natural resources, the assessor shall refer the application to the commissioner of natural resources who shall determine within 30 days whether the land is native prairie and notify the county assessor of the decision. Exemption of native prairie pursuant to this clause shall not grant the public any additional or greater right of access to the native prairie or diminish any right of ownership to it.

(12) Property used in a continuous program to provide emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse, provided the organization that owns and sponsors the shelter is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1986, notwithstanding the fact that the sponsoring organization receives funding under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended.

(13) If approved by the governing body of the municipality in which the property is located, property not exceeding one acre which is owned and operated by 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; provided the property is used primarily as a clubhouse, meeting facility or recreational facility by the group or association and the property is not used for residential purposes on either a temporary or permanent basis.

(14) To the extent provided by section 295.44, real and personal property used or to be used primarily for the production of hydroelectric or hydromechanical power on a site owned by the state or a local governmental unit which is developed and operated pursuant to the provisions of section 105.482, subdivisions 1, 8, and 9.

(15) If approved by the governing body of the municipality in which the property is located, and if construction is commenced after June 30, 1983:

(a) a "direct satellite broadcasting facility" operated by a corporation licensed by the federal communications commission to provide direct satellite broadcasting services using direct broadcast satellites operating in the 12-ghz. band; and

(b) a "fixed satellite regional or national program service facility" operated by a corporation licensed by the federal communications commission to provide fixed satellite-transmitted regularly scheduled broadcasting services using satellites operating in the 6-ghz. band.

An exemption provided by paragraph (15) shall apply for a period not to exceed five years. When the facility no longer qualifies for exemption, it shall be placed on the assessment rolls as provided in subdivision 4. Before approving a tax exemption pursuant to this paragraph, the governing body of the municipality shall provide an opportunity to the members of the county board of commissioners of the county in which the facility is proposed to be located and the members of the school board of the school district in which the facility is proposed to be located to meet with the governing body. The governing body shall present to the members of those boards its estimate of the fiscal impact of the proposed property tax exemption. The tax exemption shall not be approved by the governing body until the county board of commissioners has presented its written comment on the proposal to the governing body, or 30 days has passed from the date of the transmittal by the governing body to the board of the information on the fiscal impact, whichever occurs first.

(16) Real and personal property owned and operated by a private, nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to United States Code, title 26, section 501(c)(3), primarily used in the generation and distribution of hot water for heating buildings and structures.

(17) Notwithstanding section 273.19, state lands that are leased from the department of natural resources under section 92.46.

(18) Electric power distribution lines and their attachments and appurtenances, that are used primarily for supplying electricity to farmers at retail.

Subd. 1a. The exemptions granted by subdivision 1 are subject to the limits contained in the other subdivisions of this section, section 272.025, or 273.13, subdivision 25, paragraph (c), clause (1) or (2), or paragraph (d), clause (2).

*[For text of subds 2 to 4, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 5. The holding of property by a political subdivision of the state for later resale for economic development purposes shall be considered a public purpose in accordance with subdivision 1, clause (7) for a period not to exceed eight years. The holding of property by a political subdivision of the state for later resale (1) which is purchased or held for housing purposes, or (2) which meets the conditions described in section 469.174, subdivision 10, shall be considered a public purpose in accordance with subdivision 1, clause (7). The governing body of the political subdivision which acquires property which is subject to this subdivision shall after the purchase of the property certify to the city or county assessor whether the property is held for economic development purposes or housing purposes, or whether it meets the conditions of section 469.174, subdivision 10. If the property is acquired for economic development

purposes and buildings or other improvements are constructed after acquisition of the property, and if more than one-half of the floor space of the buildings or improvements which is available for lease to or use by a private individual, corporation, or other entity is leased to or otherwise used by a private individual, corporation, or other entity the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to the property. This subdivision shall not create an exemption from section 272.01, subdivision 2; 272.68; 273.19; or 469.040, subdivision 3; or other provision of law providing for the taxation of or for payments in lieu of taxes for publicly held property which is leased, loaned, or otherwise made available and used by a private person.

*[For text of subd 6, see M.S.1986]*

**History:** 1987 c 268 art 6 s 6,7; art 8 s 3; 1987 c 291 s 205

**NOTE:** Except where provided otherwise, the amendments to subdivisions 1 and 1a by Laws 1987, chapter 268, article 6, sections 6 and 7, are effective for taxes levied in 1988, payable in 1989 and thereafter. See Laws 1987, chapter 268, article 6, section 54.

**NOTE:** The reference to section 272.03, subdivision 1, paragraph (d) contained in subdivision 1, clause (8), is effective beginning with taxes assessed in 1989, payable in 1990 and thereafter. See Laws 1985, First Special Session chapter 14, article 3, section 18, as amended by Laws 1987, chapter 268, article 11, section 10.

### **272.026 TAX STATUS OF PROPERTY MANAGED BY A HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.**

Any property that is under the direct management and control of, but is not owned by, a housing redevelopment authority or public housing agency, and is used in a manner authorized and contemplated by sections 469.001 to 469.047, and for which the authority or agency is eligible for assistance payments under federal law, is public property used for essential public and governmental purposes, and the property and the authority or agency is exempt from all taxes and special assessments of the city, the county, the state, or any political subdivision of the state in the same manner as property referred to in section 469.040, subdivision 1. Payments in lieu of taxes for the property shall remain as provided in section 272.68 or 469.040, subdivision 3.

**History:** 1987 c 291 s 206

### **272.115 CERTIFICATE OF VALUE; FILING.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 2. The certificate of value shall require such facts and information as may be determined by the commissioner to be reasonably necessary in the administration of the state education aid formulas. The form of the certificate of value shall be prescribed by the department of revenue which shall provide an adequate supply of forms to each county auditor.

*[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 4. No real estate sold on or after January 1, 1978, for which a certificate of value is required pursuant to subdivision 1 shall receive the homestead value exemption amount or the agricultural exemption amount computed in section 275.081; or the taconite homestead credit provided in sections 273.134 to 273.136, unless a certificate of value has been filed with the county auditor in accordance with this section.

This subdivision shall apply to any real estate taxes that are payable the year or years following the sale of the property.

**History:** 1987 c 268 art 6 s 8; art 7 s 26

**NOTE:** Except where provided otherwise, the amendments to subdivision 4 by Laws 1987, chapter 268, article 6, section 8, are effective for taxes levied in 1988, payable in 1989 and thereafter. See Laws 1987, chapter 268, article 6, section 54.

**272.121 CURRENT TAX ON DIVIDED PARCELS.**

If a deed or other instrument conveys a parcel of land that is less than a whole parcel of land as described in the current tax list, the county auditor shall not transfer or divide the land in the auditor's official records, and the county recorder shall not file and record the instrument, unless the instrument of conveyance contains a certification by the county treasurer that the taxes due in the current tax year for the whole parcel have been paid. This certification is in addition to the certification for delinquent tax required by section 272.12. No certification of current tax paid is required for any sheriff's or referee's certificate of sale or other instrument if a certification of delinquent tax for the instrument is not required under section 272.12.

**History:** 1987 c 268 art 7 s 27

**272.68 PAYMENT OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS ON PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE STATE.**

*[For text of subs 1 to 3, see M.S.1986]*

Subd. 4. When the political subdivision is a housing and redevelopment authority which has obtained the right to take possession of a property in a redevelopment project area, it may lease the property to the previous occupant for temporary use pending the relocation of the former occupant's residence or business or may relocate such former occupant in any other property owned by it in such project area. The authority may agree with the municipality to the payment of certain sums in lieu of taxes on said property during such temporary occupancy in which event the payment of the sum agreed upon shall be in lieu of taxes as provided in section 469.040 and the provisions of section 272.01, subdivision 2, and section 273.19 shall not apply to such property or to the use thereof.

**History:** 1987 c 291 s 207