

## CHAPTER 272

### TAXATION, GENERAL PROVISIONS

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#### 272.01 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1988]*

Subd. 2. (a) When any real or personal property which 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 as 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 parking facility, municipal museum, or municipal stadium;

(2) property of an airport owned by a city, town, county, or group thereof which is:

(i) leased to or used by any person or entity including a fixed base operator; and

(ii) used as a hangar for the storage or repair of aircraft or to provide aviation goods, services, or facilities to the airport or general public;

the exception from taxation provided in this clause does not apply to:

(i) property located at an airport owned or operated by the metropolitan airports commission or by a city of over 50,000 population according to the most recent federal census or such a city's airport authority; or

(ii) hangars leased by a private individual, association, or corporation in connection with a business conducted for profit other than an aviation-related business;

(3) property constituting or used as a public pedestrian ramp or concourse in connection with a public airport; or

(4) property constituting or used as a passenger check-in area or ticket sale counter, boarding area, or luggage claim area in connection with a public airport but not the airports owned or operated by the metropolitan airports commission or cities of over 50,000 population or an airport authority therein. Real estate owned by a municipality in connection with the operation of a public airport and leased or used for agricultural purposes is not exempt.

(c) Taxes imposed by this subdivision are payable as in the case of personal property taxes and shall be assessed to the 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.

(d) The tax on real property of the state or any of its political subdivisions that is leased by a private individual, association, or corporation and becomes taxable under

this subdivision or other provision of law must be assessed and collected as a personal property assessment. The taxes do not become a lien against the real property.

*[For text of subds 3 and 4, see M.S.1988]*

**History:** 1989 c 239 s 1; 1989 c 277 art 2 s 14

## **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), clauses (1), (2), and (3), or paragraph (d);
- (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 ani-

mals, 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. Upon receipt of an application for the exemption provided in this clause 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.

(19) Transitional housing facilities. "Transitional housing facility" means a facility that meets the following requirements. (i) It provides temporary housing to parents and children who are receiving AFDC or parents of children who are temporarily in foster care. (ii) It has the purpose of reuniting families and enabling parents to obtain self-sufficiency, advance their education, get job training, or become employed in jobs that provide a living wage. (iii) It provides support services such as child care, work readiness training, and career development counseling; and a self-sufficiency program with periodic monitoring of each resident's progress in completing the program's goals. (iv) It provides services to a resident of the facility for at least six months but no longer than three years, except residents enrolled in an educational or vocational institution or job training program. These residents may receive services during the time they are enrolled but in no event longer than four years. (v) It is sponsored by an organization that has received a grant under either section 256.7365 for the biennium ending June 30, 1989, or section 462A.07, subdivision 15, for the biennium ending June 30, 1991, for the purposes of providing the services in items (i) to (iv). (vi) It is sponsored by an organization that is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1987. This exemption applies notwithstanding the fact that the sponsoring organization receives financing by a direct federal loan or federally insured loan or a loan made by the Minnesota housing finance agency under the provisions of either Title II of the National Housing Act or the Minnesota housing finance agency law of 1971 or rules promulgated by the agency pursuant to it, and notwithstanding the fact that the sponsoring organization receives funding under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended.

*[For text of subds 1a to 6, see M.S.1988]*

**History:** 1989 c 209 art 2 s 31; 1989 c 277 art 2 s 15

## **272.16 TRANSFER OF SPECIFIC PART.**

When any part less than the whole of any parcel of land, as charged in the tax lists, is conveyed, the county auditor shall transfer the same whenever the seller and purchaser agree, in a writing signed by them, or personally appear before the county auditor and agree, upon the amount of the net tax capacity to be transferred therewith; but, if the seller and purchaser do not so agree, the county auditor shall make such division of the net tax capacity as may appear to the auditor just. If the county auditor is satisfied that the proportion of the net tax capacity so agreed to be transferred is greater than the proportional value of the land to be transferred therewith, and that such agreement was made by collusion of the parties, and with a view fraudulently to evade payment of taxes assessed on the entire parcel, the auditor may refuse to make such transfer; and, when any such transfer has already been procured by fraudulent agreement, the auditor shall cancel the same, and the land so transferred shall be charged with taxes in the same manner as though the transfer had not been made.

**History:** 1989 c 329 art 13 s 20

**272.161 DETERMINATION OF NET TAX CAPACITY OF SPECIFIC PART OF LAND TRANSFERRED.**

In the event the seller and the purchaser fail to file the agreement as prescribed by section 272.16, the county auditor of any county may, before making a transfer of a specific part of any tract assessed, request the county assessor to determine the amount of net tax capacity to be transferred therewith. The net tax capacity so fixed shall be conclusive, except that either party to the division may appeal to the district court of the county in which the land is situated for a determination, made in the manner prescribed by Minnesota Statutes 1945, chapter 278.

**History:** 1989 c 329 art 13 s 20

**272.162 RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFERS OF SPECIFIC PARTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Conditions restricting transfer.** When a deed or other instrument conveying a parcel of land is presented to the county auditor for transfer or division under sections 272.12, 272.16, and 272.161, the auditor shall not transfer or divide the land or its net tax capacity in the official records and shall not certify the instrument as provided in section 272.12, if:

- (a) The land conveyed is less than a whole parcel of land as charged in the tax lists;
- (b) The part conveyed appears within the area of application of municipal subdivision regulations adopted and filed under section 462.36, subdivision 1; and
- (c) The part conveyed is part of or constitutes a subdivision as defined in section 462.352, subdivision 12.

**Subd. 2. Conditions allowing transfer.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1, the county auditor may transfer or divide the land and its net tax capacity and may certify the instrument if the instrument contains a certification by the clerk of the municipality:

- (a) that the municipality's subdivision regulations do not apply;
- (b) that the subdivision has been approved by the governing body of the municipality; or
- (c) that the restrictions on the division of taxes and filing and recording have been waived by resolution of the governing body of the municipality in the particular case because compliance would create an unnecessary hardship and failure to comply would not interfere with the purpose of the regulations.

If any of the conditions for certification by the municipality as provided in this subdivision exist and the municipality does not certify that they exist within 24 hours after the instrument of conveyance has been presented to the clerk of the municipality, the provisions of subdivision 1 do not apply.

If an unexecuted instrument is presented to the municipality and any of the conditions for certification by the municipality as provided in this subdivision exist, the unexecuted instrument must be certified by the clerk of the municipality.

*[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1988]*

**History:** 1989 c 329 art 13 s 20

**272.67 DIVISION OF LAND IN CITIES INTO RURAL AND URBAN DISTRICTS.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.1988]*

**Subd. 6.** A certified copy of every ordinance, amendment, and order adopted or entered pursuant to this section shall be filed with the county auditor before it becomes effective. The amount of taxes levied each year by each city shall be certified to the county auditor in the manner now or hereafter provided by law. Taxes levied for payment of bonds and judgments and interest thereon shall continue to be spread upon all taxable property within the boundaries of the city in proportion to the gross tax

capacity thereof. The remaining amount of the taxes levied each year shall be allocated by the county auditor to the urban service district and the rural service district in amounts proportionate to the current benefit ratio times the current ratio between the market values of all taxable property within the urban service district and all taxable property within the rural service district. Within each district, the amount so allocated shall be spread upon all taxable property in proportion to the net tax capacity thereof.

Subd. 7. This section does not affect the classification of individual parcels of land for purposes of taxation under the provisions of section 273.13. No law or charter limiting the incurring of indebtedness or the levy of taxes by any city by reference to its population or the net tax capacity of taxable property therein is amended by this section in its application to any city whose area is divided into urban and rural service districts.

*[For text of subd 8, see M.S.1988]*

**History:** 1989 c 329 art 13 s 20