

CHAPTER 270

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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270.059 REVENUE DEPARTMENT SERVICE AND RECOVERY SPECIAL REVENUE FUND.

A revenue department service and recovery special revenue fund is created for the purpose of recovering the costs of furnishing public government data and related services or products, as well as recovering costs associated with collecting local taxes on sales. All money collected under this section is deposited in the revenue department service and recovery special revenue fund. Money in the fund is appropriated to the commissioner of revenue to reimburse the department of revenue for the costs incurred in administering the tax law or providing the data, service, or product.

History: 1991 c 345 art 1 s 83

270.0604 REVENUE NOTICES.

Subdivision 1. **Authority.** The commissioner of revenue may make, adopt, and publish interpretive revenue notices. A "revenue notice" is a policy statement that has been published pursuant to subdivision 5 and that provides interpretation, details, or supplementary information concerning the application of law or rules. Revenue notices are published for the information and guidance of taxpayers, the department of revenue, and others concerned.

Subd. 2. **Effect.** Revenue notices do not have the force and effect of law and have no precedential effect, but may be relied on by taxpayers until revoked or modified. A notice may be expressly revoked or modified by the department, by the issuance of a revenue notice, but may not be revoked or modified retroactively to the detriment of the taxpayers. A change in the law or an interpretation of the law occurring after the revenue notice is issued, whether in the form of a statute, court decision, administrative rule, or revenue notice, results in revocation or modification of the notice to the extent that the change affects the notice.

Subd. 3. **Retroactivity.** Revenue notices are generally interpretive of existing law and therefore are retroactive to the effective date of the applicable law provision unless otherwise stated in the notice.

Subd. 4. **Issuance.** The issuance of revenue notices is at the discretion of the commissioner of revenue. The commissioner shall establish procedures governing the issuance of revenue notices and tax information bulletins.

Subd. 5. **Publication.** The commissioner shall publish the revenue notices in the State Register and in any other manner that makes them accessible to the general public. The commissioner may charge a reasonable fee for publications.

Subd. 6. **Applicability.** This section does not apply to property tax law.

History: 1991 c 291 art 21 s 6

270.0605 TAX INFORMATION BULLETINS.

The commissioner of revenue may issue tax information bulletins. "Tax information bulletins" are informational guides to enable taxpayers to become more familiar

with Minnesota tax laws and their rights and responsibilities under the tax laws. Nothing contained in the tax information bulletins supersedes, alters, or otherwise changes any provisions of the Minnesota tax law, administrative rules, court decisions, or revenue notices.

History: 1991 c 291 art 21 s 7

270.067 TAX EXPENDITURE BUDGET.

Subdivision 1. Statement of purpose. State governmental policy objectives are sought to be achieved both by direct expenditure of governmental funds and by the granting of special and selective tax relief or tax expenditures. Both direct expenditures of governmental funds and tax expenditures have an effect on the ability of the state and local governments to lower tax rates or to increase expenditures. As a result, tax expenditures should receive a regular and comprehensive review by the legislature as to (a) their total cost, (b) their effectiveness in achieving their objectives, (c) their effect on the fairness and equity of the distribution of the tax burden, and (d) the public and private cost of administering tax expenditure financed programs. This section is intended to facilitate a regular review of the state and local tax expenditure budget by the legislature by providing for the preparation of a regular biennial tax expenditure budget.

Subd. 2. Preparation; submission. The commissioner of revenue shall prepare a tax expenditure budget for the state. The tax expenditure budget report shall be submitted to the legislature as a supplement to the governor's budget and at the same time as provided for submission of the budget pursuant to section 16A.11, subdivision 1.

[For text of subs 3 to 6, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 291 art 21 s 8,9

270.11 POWERS; MEETINGS.

[For text of subs 1 to 5, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 6. Change of market values. The commissioner of revenue shall raise or lower the market value of any real or personal property, including the power to raise or lower the market value of the real or personal property of any individual, copartnership, company, association, or corporation; provided, that before any such assessment against the property of any individual, copartnership, company, association, or corporation is so raised, notice of an intention to raise such market value and of the time and place at which a hearing thereon will be held shall be given to such person, by mail, addressed to the person at the place of residence listed upon the assessment book, at least five days before the day of such hearing.

All relevant and material evidence concerning the market value of the real or personal property shall be submitted at the hearing, and the hearing shall not be a "contested case" within the meaning of section 14.02, subdivision 3. The person notified of the hearing, or any other person having an interest in the property, may present evidence and argument bearing upon the market value of the property.

[For text of subd 7, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 291 art 12 s 2

270.12 STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION; DUTIES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 2. The board shall meet annually between April 15 and June 30 at the office of the commissioner of revenue and examine and compare the returns of the assessment of the property in the several counties, and equalize the same so that all the taxable property in the state shall be assessed at its market value, subject to the following rules:

(1) The board shall add to the aggregate valuation of the real property of every county, which the board believes to be valued below its market value in money, such percent as will bring the same to its market value in money;

(2) The board shall deduct from the aggregate valuation of the real property of every county, which the board believes to be valued above its market value in money, such percent as will reduce the same to its market value in money;

(3) If the board believes the valuation for a part of a class determined by a range of market value under clause (8), a class, or classes of the real property of any town or district in any county, or the valuation for a part of a class, a class, or classes of the real property of any county not in towns or cities, should be raised or reduced, without raising or reducing the other real property of such county, or without raising or reducing it in the same ratio, the board may add to, or take from, the valuation of a part of a class, a class, or classes in any one or more of such towns or cities, or of the property not in towns or cities, such percent as the board believes will raise or reduce the same to its market value in money;

(4) The board shall add to the aggregate valuation of any class of personal property of any county, town, or city, which the board believes to be valued below the market value thereof, such percent as will raise the same to its market value in money;

(5) The board shall take from the aggregate valuation of any class of personal property in any county, town or city, which the board believes to be valued above the market value thereof, such percent as will reduce the same to its market value in money;

(6) The board shall not reduce the aggregate valuation of all the property of the state, as returned by the several county auditors, more than one percent on the whole valuation thereof;

(7) When it would be of assistance in equalizing values the board may require any county auditor to furnish statements showing assessments of real and personal property of any individuals, firms, or corporations within the county. The board shall consider and equalize such assessments and may increase the assessment of individuals, firms, or corporations above the amount returned by the county board of equalization when it shall appear to be undervalued, first giving notice to such persons of the intention of the board so to do, which notice shall fix a time and place of hearing. The board shall not decrease any such assessment below the valuation placed by the county board of equalization;

(8) In equalizing values pursuant to this section, the board shall utilize a 12-month assessment/sales ratio study conducted by the department of revenue containing only sales that are filed in the county auditor's office under section 272.115, by November 1 of the previous year and that occurred between October 1 of the year immediately preceding the previous year and September 30 of the previous year.

The assessment/sales ratio study may separate the values of residential property into market value categories. The board may adjust the market value categories and the number of categories as necessary to create an adequate sample size for each market value category. The board may determine the adequate sample size. To the extent practicable, the methodology used in preparing the assessment/sales ratio study must be consistent with the most recent Standard on Assessment Sales Ratio Studies published by the assessment standards committee of the International Association of Assessing Officers. The board may determine the geographic area used in preparing the study to accurately equalize values. A sales ratio study separating residential property into market value categories may not be used as the basis for a petition under chapter 278.

The sales prices used in the study must be discounted for terms of financing. The board shall use the median ratio as the statistical measure of the level of assessment for any particular category of property; and

(9) The board shall receive from each county the estimated market values on the assessment date falling within the study period for all parcels by magnetic tape or other medium as prescribed by the commissioner of revenue.

[For text of subds 3 and 4, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 5. Equalization orders. The board of equalization may, pursuant to its responsibilities under subdivisions 2 and 3, issue orders to ensure that the results of local and county boards of equalization are consistent with the objective of state equalization. The board may issue, at its discretion, a supplemental order to amend, supersede, or correct a prior order of the board or an order of a local or county board. The supplemental order must be issued within 60 days of the order to be changed. The board may issue to a local or county board of equalization, within ten business days of the receipt of minutes of a local or county board of equalization, an order explaining the action that the state board believes will be necessary to effect the objective of state equalization.

History: 1991 c 291 art 1 s 7; art 12 s 3

270.274 REVIEW OF JEOPARDY ASSESSMENT AND LEVY PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. Administrative review. Within five days after a jeopardy assessment or jeopardy collection is made to assess or collect a tax administered by the commissioner of revenue, the commissioner shall provide the taxpayer with a written statement of the information relied on in making the assessment or levy. Within 30 days after the written statement is provided or, if not provided, within 35 days after the assessment or levy, the taxpayer may request the commissioner to review the action taken. After a request for review, the commissioner shall determine whether the assessment or levy is reasonable and whether the amount assessed or demanded as a result of the action is appropriate under the circumstances.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 291 art 16 s 1

270.42 MEMBERSHIP.

Membership terms, compensation of members, removal of members, the filling of membership vacancies, and fiscal year and reporting requirements shall be as provided in sections 214.07 to 214.09. The provision of staff, administrative services and office space; the review and processing of complaints; the setting of board fees; and other provisions relating to board operations shall be as provided in chapter 214.

History: 1991 c 199 art 1 s 49

270.60 TAX REFUND AGREEMENTS WITH INDIANS.

Subdivision 1. Taxes paid by Indians. The commissioner of revenue is authorized to enter into a tax refund agreement with the governing body of any Sioux or Chippewa reservation in Minnesota. The agreement may provide for a mutually agreed upon amount as a refund to the governing body of any sales or excise tax paid by the total resident population on or adjacent to a reservation into the state treasury, or for an amount which measures the economic value of an agreement by the council to pay the equivalent of the state sales tax on items included in the sales tax base but exempt on the reservation, notwithstanding any other law which limits the refundment of taxes. The total resident Indian population on or adjacent to a reservation shall be defined according to the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, as determined and stated in its Report on Service Population and Labor Force.

Subd. 2. Cigarette taxes. The commissioner of revenue is also authorized to enter into a tax refund agreement with the governing body of any federally recognized Indian reservation in Minnesota, for refund of a mutually agreed upon amount of the cigarette taxes collected from sales on reservations or trust lands of an Indian tribe to the established governing body of the tribe having jurisdiction over the reservation or trust land on which the sale is made.

Subd. 3. Appropriation. There is annually appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue the amounts necessary to make the refunds provided in this section.

History: 1991 c 291 art 9 s 5

270.66 RIGHT OF SETOFF.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 3. **Agencies shall maintain records.** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, every person, organization, or corporation doing business (hereafter called vendor) with the state of Minnesota or any of its departments, agencies, or educational institutions including the University of Minnesota (all hereafter called agency) shall provide that agency with either their social security number, federal taxpayer identification number, or Minnesota tax identification number. The agency shall maintain records of this information, and shall make these records available, on request, to the commissioner for the sole purpose of identifying people who have not filed state tax returns or who have not paid uncontested state tax liabilities (hereafter called delinquent taxpayer). When an agency is notified by the commissioner that a vendor is a delinquent taxpayer, payments shall not be made by the agency to the vendor until the commissioner notifies the agency that the vendor no longer is a delinquent taxpayer. Furthermore, if the vendor has an uncontested delinquent tax liability, the setoff provided in subdivision 1 may be implemented. The commissioner shall determine that a vendor no longer is a delinquent taxpayer when the vendor has filed all delinquent state tax returns, paid all uncontested state tax liabilities or entered into an agreement with the commissioner which provides for the payment of these liabilities.

History: 1991 c 291 art 16 s 2

270.68 LEGAL ACTION; CONFESSION OF JUDGMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Legal action.** In addition to all other methods authorized by law for the collection of tax, if any tax payable to the commissioner of revenue or to the department of revenue, including penalties and interest thereon, is not paid within 60 days after it is required by law to be paid, the commissioner of revenue may proceed under this subdivision. Within five years after the date of assessment of the tax, or, if the action is to renew or enforce a judgment, at any time before the judgment's expiration, the commissioner may bring an action at law against the person liable for the payment or collection of the tax, in the name of the state, for the recovery of the tax and interest and penalties due in respect thereof. The action shall be brought in the district court of the judicial district in which lies the county of the residence or principal place of business within this state of the taxpayer, or, in the case of an estate or trust, of the place of its principal administration, and for this purpose the place named as such in the return, if any, made by the taxpayer shall be conclusive against the taxpayer in this matter. If no place is named in the return, the action may be commenced in Ramsey county. The action shall be commenced by filing with the court administrator a statement showing the name and address of the taxpayer, if known, an itemized summary of the taxable periods and the type of tax, the tax due and unpaid and the interest and penalties due with respect thereto under the provisions of law applicable to the tax, and shall contain a prayer that the court adjudge the taxpayer to be indebted on account of the taxes, interest, and penalties in the amount specified in the statement; a copy of the statement shall be furnished to the court administrator therewith. The court administrator shall mail a copy of the statement by certified mail to the taxpayer at the address given in the return, if any; and to the taxpayer's last known address, within five days after the same is filed, except that, if the taxpayer's address is not known, notice shall be made by posting a copy of the statement for ten days in the place in the courthouse where public notices are regularly posted. To litigate the claim, or any part of it, the taxpayer shall serve an answer upon the commissioner on or before the 20th day after the date of mailing the statement; or, if notice has been given by posting, on or before the 20th day after the expiration of the period during which the notice was required to be posted. If no answer is served within the specified time, the court administrator, upon the filing of an affidavit of default, shall enter judgment for the state in the amount prayed for, plus costs of \$10. If an answer is filed, the issues raised shall stand for trial as soon as possible after the filing of the answer, and the court shall determine the issues and direct

judgment accordingly; and, if the taxes, interest, or penalties are sustained to any extent over the amount rendered by the taxpayer, shall assess \$10 costs against the taxpayer. The court shall disregard all technicalities and matters of form not affecting the substantial merits. The commissioner may call upon the county attorney or the attorney general to conduct the proceedings on behalf of the state. If a proceeding is referred to a county attorney, and the county attorney fails to issue or cause to be issued an indictment or criminal complaint within 30 days after the referral by the commissioner, the attorney general may conduct the proceeding. Execution shall be issued upon the judgment at the request of the commissioner, and the execution shall, in all other respects, be governed by the laws applicable to executions issued on judgments. Only the homestead and household goods of the judgment debtor shall be exempt from seizure and sale upon the execution.

In addition to the procedure in this subdivision, legal action may be commenced by the commissioner in district court in the same manner or venue as any other civil action.

[For text of subds 2 to 4, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 291 art 16 s 3

270.69 LIEN FOR TAXES.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 2. Filing of liens necessary for enforceability against certain persons; methods of filing; fees. (a) The lien imposed by subdivision 1 is not enforceable against any purchaser, mortgagee, pledgee, holder of a uniform commercial code security interest, mechanic's lienor, or judgment lien creditor whose interest has been duly perfected or is entitled to protection under applicable provisions of state law, until a notice of lien has been filed by the commissioner of revenue in the office of the county recorder of the county in which real property is situated, or in the case of personal property belonging to an individual who is not a resident of this state or to a corporation, partnership, or other organization, in the office of the secretary of state, or in the case of personal property belonging to a resident individual, in the office of the county recorder of the county of residence of the individual.

(b)(1) Notices of liens, and lien releases, transcriptions, and renewals, in a form prescribed by the commissioner of revenue, may be filed with the county recorder or the secretary of state by mail, personal delivery, or by electronic transmission by the commissioner or a delegate into the computerized filing system of the secretary of state authorized under section 336.9-411. The secretary of state shall transmit the notice electronically to the office of the county recorder, if that is the place of filing, in the county or counties shown on the computer entry. The filing officer, whether the county recorder or the secretary of state, shall endorse and index a printout of the notice in the same manner as if the notice had been mailed or delivered.

(2) County recorders and the secretary of state shall enter information relative to lien notices, transcriptions, renewals, and releases filed in their offices into the central data base of the secretary of state. For notices filed electronically with the county recorders, the date and time of receipt of the notice and county recorder's file number, and for notices filed electronically with the secretary of state, the secretary of state's recording information, must be entered by the filing officer into the central data base before the close of the working day following the day of the original data entry by the department of revenue.

The filing and indexing of all notices must be in accordance with the filing and indexing of notices of federal liens, certificates of release, and refiled notices under section 272.483.

(c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the department of revenue is exempt from payment of fees when a lien, lien renewal, or lien transcription is offered for recording. The recording fees must be paid along with the release fee at the end of

the month in which the release of lien is recorded, after receipt of a monthly statement from a county recorder or the secretary of state. The department of revenue shall add the recording fees to the delinquent tax liability of the taxpayer. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the fee for filing or recording a notice of lien, or lien release, transcription, or renewal is \$15.

(d) There is appropriated to the commissioner of revenue an amount representing the cost of payment of recording fees to the county recorders and the secretary of state. The commissioner shall keep a separate accounting of the costs and of payments for recording fees remitted by taxpayers, and make the records available to the legislature upon request.

[For text of subds 3 to 7, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 8. Filing entitlement. Execution of notices of liens or of other notices affecting state tax liens by the original or facsimile signature of the commissioner of revenue or a delegate entitles them to be filed, and no other attestation, certification, or acknowledgment is necessary. For purposes of this subdivision, transmission of notices under subdivision 2, paragraph (b), clause (1), constitutes execution.

Subd. 9. Lien search fees. Upon request of any person, the filing officer shall issue a certificate showing whether there is recorded in that filing office, on the date and hour stated in the certificate, any notice of lien or certificate or notice affecting any lien filed on or after ten years before the date of the search certificate, naming a particular person, and giving the date and hour of filing of each notice or certificate naming the person. The fee for a certificate shall be as provided by section 336.9-407 or 357.18, subdivision 1, clause (3). Upon request, the filing officer shall furnish a copy of any notice of state lien, or notice or certificate affecting a state lien, for a fee of 50 cents per page.

[For text of subds 10 to 12, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 13. Forty-five day rule. A notice of tax lien filed under this section has priority over a security interest arising under article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, codified as sections 336.9-101 to 336.9-508, that is perfected before the date of filing of the lien imposed by this section, but only if:

(1) the perfected security interest secures property acquired by the taxpayer or advances made by the secured party after the notice of tax lien is filed; and

(2) the property is acquired or the advance is made after the 45th day following the day on which the notice of tax lien is filed, or after the secured party has actual notice or knowledge of the tax lien filing, whichever is earlier.

History: 1991 c 291 art 16 s 4; art 18 s 2-4

270.70 LEVY AND DISTRAINT.

[For text of subds 1 to 9, see M.S.1990]

Subd. 10. Person defined. The term "person" as used in subdivision 8 includes an officer or employee of a corporation or a member or employee of a partnership who, as such officer, employee or member is under a duty to surrender the property or rights to property or to discharge the obligation. The personal liability imposed by subdivision 8 and the penalty imposed by subdivision 9 may, after demand to honor a levy has been made, be assessed by the commissioner within 60 days after service of the demand. An assessing tax order under this subdivision shall be appealable to the tax court without payment of the tax, penalty, or interest in the manner provided by law, but an appeal shall not preclude the commissioner from exercising any collection action the commissioner deems necessary to preserve the interests of the state while the matter is pending.

[For text of subds 11 to 18, see M.S.1990]

History: 1991 c 291 art 16 s 5

270.703 REDEMPTION OF PROPERTY.*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1990]*

Subd. 2. **Redemption of real estate after sale.** The owners of any real property sold as provided in this section, their heirs, executors, or administrators, or any person having any interest therein, or a lien thereon, or any person in their behalf, shall be permitted to redeem the property sold, or any particular tract of the property, at any time within six months, or in case the real property sold exceeds ten acres in size, at any time within 12 months, after the sale thereof. The property or tract of property shall be permitted to be redeemed upon payment to the purchaser (or if not found in the county in which the property to be redeemed is situated, then to the commissioner, for the use of the purchaser, or the purchaser's heirs or assigns) of the amount paid by the purchaser together with interest at the rate of 20 percent per annum.

*[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1990]***History:** 1991 c 291 art 16 s 6**270.74 FINANCIAL TRANSACTION CARDS; PAYMENT OF STATE TAXES.**

(a) The commissioner of revenue may allow taxpayers to use financial transaction cards, as defined in section 325G.02, subdivision 2, to pay any of the following which are payable to the commissioner:

- (1) state taxes;
- (2) estimated tax deposits;
- (3) penalties;
- (4) interest;
- (5) additions to taxes; and
- (6) fees.

(b) The commissioner may impose a fee on each transaction under paragraph (a). The fee is equal to the fee the commissioner is required to pay for the taxpayer's use of the financial transaction card. This fee must be deposited in the general fund and is appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose of paying the transaction card fee.

(c) The types of financial transaction cards that will be accepted shall be determined solely by the commissioner. The selection of transaction card vendors shall be made through a request for proposals process. Before issuing a request for proposals, the commissioner shall review the request for proposals and any specifications with the commissioner of finance and the state treasurer. The commissioner shall select the transaction card vendors from among those which meet the operational and cost requirements of the department of revenue. The commissioner may limit the number of different types of financial transaction cards that will be accepted.

(d) If the commissioner allows taxpayers to pay taxes with financial transaction cards, the commissioner shall report quarterly on the status of this program to the chairs of the house tax and appropriations committees and the chairs of the senate tax and finance committees.

History: 1991 c 345 art 1 s 84**270.75 INTEREST PAYABLE TO COMMISSIONER.***[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1990]*

Subd. 4. There shall be added to the amount of any underpayment of estimated income tax, computed pursuant to chapter 289A, an amount in lieu of interest. The amount in lieu of interest for that taxable year shall be the amount determined in subdivision 5 for January 1 on which begins the taxable year or precedes the beginning of the taxable year. The amount in lieu of interest does not bear interest after the due date of the return for that taxable year.

*[For text of subds 5 and 6, see M.S.1990]***History:** 1991 c 291 art 16 s 7