

CHAPTER 290A

PROPERTY TAX REFUND

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290A.03 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 3. **Income.** (1) "Income" means the sum of the following:

- (a) federal adjusted gross income as defined in the Internal Revenue Code; and
- (b) the sum of the following amounts to the extent not included in clause (a):
 - (i) all nontaxable income;
 - (ii) the amount of a passive activity loss that is not disallowed as a result of section 469, paragraph (i) or (m) of the Internal Revenue Code and the amount of passive activity loss carryover allowed under section 469(b) of the Internal Revenue Code;
 - (iii) an amount equal to the total of any discharge of qualified farm indebtedness of a solvent individual excluded from gross income under section 108(g) of the Internal Revenue Code;
 - (iv) cash public assistance and relief;
 - (v) any pension or annuity (including railroad retirement benefits, all payments received under the federal Social Security Act, supplemental security income, and veterans benefits), which was not exclusively funded by the claimant or spouse, or which was funded exclusively by the claimant or spouse and which funding payments were excluded from federal adjusted gross income in the years when the payments were made;
 - (vi) interest received from the federal or a state government or any instrumentality or political subdivision thereof;
 - (vii) workers' compensation;
 - (viii) nontaxable strike benefits;
 - (ix) the gross amounts of payments received in the nature of disability income or sick pay as a result of accident, sickness, or other disability, whether funded through insurance or otherwise;
 - (x) a lump sum distribution under section 402(e)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
 - (xi) contributions made by the claimant to an individual retirement account, including a qualified voluntary employee contribution; simplified employee pension plan; self-employed retirement plan; cash or deferred arrangement plan under section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code; or deferred compensation plan under section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code; and
 - (xii) nontaxable scholarship or fellowship grants.

In the case of an individual who files an income tax return on a fiscal year basis, the term "federal adjusted gross income" shall mean federal adjusted gross income reflected in the fiscal year ending in the calendar year. Federal adjusted gross income shall not be reduced by the amount of a net operating loss carryback or carryforward or a capital loss carryback or carryforward allowed for the year.

(2) "Income" does not include

- (a) amounts excluded pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, sections 101(a), 102, and 121;
- (b) amounts of any pension or annuity which was exclusively funded by the claimant or spouse and which funding payments were not excluded from federal adjusted gross income in the years when the payments were made;

- (c) surplus food or other relief in kind supplied by a governmental agency;
- (d) relief granted under this chapter; or
- (e) child support payments received under a temporary or final decree of dissolution or legal separation.

(3) The sum of the following amounts may be subtracted from income:

- (a) for the claimant's first dependent, the exemption amount multiplied by 1.4;
- (b) for the claimant's second dependent, the exemption amount multiplied by 1.3;
- (c) for the claimant's third dependent, the exemption amount multiplied by 1.2;
- (d) for the claimant's fourth dependent, the exemption amount multiplied by 1.1;
- (e) for the claimant's fifth dependent, the exemption amount; and
- (f) if the claimant or claimant's spouse was disabled or attained the age of 65 on or before December 31 of the year for which the taxes were levied or rent paid, the exemption amount.

For purposes of this subdivision, the "exemption amount" means the exemption amount under section 151(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1991, for the taxable year for which the income is reported.

[For text of subds 4 to 6, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 7. Dependent. "Dependent" means any person who is considered a dependent under sections 151 and 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1991. In the case of a son, stepson, daughter, or stepdaughter of the claimant, amounts received as an aid to families with dependent children grant, allowance to or on behalf of the child, surplus food, or other relief in kind supplied by a governmental agency must not be taken into account in determining whether the child received more than half of the child's support from the claimant.

Subd. 8. Claimant. (a) "Claimant" means a person, other than a dependent, as defined under sections 151 and 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1992, disregarding section 152(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, who filed a claim authorized by this chapter and who was a resident of this state as provided in chapter 290 during the calendar year for which the claim for relief was filed.

(b) In the case of a claim relating to rent constituting property taxes, the claimant shall have resided in a rented or leased unit on which ad valorem taxes or payments made in lieu of ad valorem taxes, including payments of special assessments imposed in lieu of ad valorem taxes, are payable at some time during the calendar year covered by the claim.

(c) "Claimant" shall not include a resident of a nursing home, intermediate care facility, or long-term residential facility whose rent constituting property taxes is paid pursuant to the supplemental security income program under title XVI of the Social Security Act, the Minnesota supplemental aid program under sections 256D.35 to 256D.54, the medical assistance program pursuant to title XIX of the Social Security Act, or the general assistance medical care program pursuant to section 256D.03, subdivision 3. If only a portion of the rent constituting property taxes is paid by these programs, the resident shall be a claimant for purposes of this chapter, but the refund calculated pursuant to section 290A.04 shall be multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is income as defined in subdivision 3, paragraphs (1) and (2), reduced by the total amount of income from the above sources other than vendor payments under the medical assistance program or the general assistance medical care program and the denominator of which is income as defined in subdivision 3, paragraphs (1) and (2), plus vendor payments under the medical assistance program or the general assistance medical care program, to determine the allowable refund pursuant to this chapter.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), if the claimant was a resident of the nursing home, intermediate care facility or long-term residential facility for only a portion of the calendar year covered by the claim, the claimant may compute rent constituting

property taxes by disregarding the rent constituting property taxes from the nursing home, intermediate care facility, or long-term residential facility and use only that amount of rent constituting property taxes or property taxes payable relating to that portion of the year when the claimant was not in the facility. The claimant's household income is the income for the entire calendar year covered by the claim.

(e) In the case of a claim for rent constituting property taxes of a part-year Minnesota resident, the income and rental reflected in this computation shall be for the period of Minnesota residency only. Any rental expenses paid which may be reflected in arriving at federal adjusted gross income cannot be utilized for this computation. When two individuals of a household are able to meet the qualifications for a claimant, they may determine among them as to who the claimant shall be. If they are unable to agree, the matter shall be referred to the commissioner of revenue whose decision shall be final. If a homestead property owner was a part-year Minnesota resident, the income reflected in the computation made pursuant to section 290A.04 shall be for the entire calendar year, including income not assignable to Minnesota.

(f) If a homestead is occupied by two or more renters, who are not husband and wife, the rent shall be deemed to be paid equally by each, and separate claims shall be filed by each. The income of each shall be each renter's household income for purposes of computing the amount of credit to be allowed.

[For text of subds 9 to 12a, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 13. Property taxes payable. "Property taxes payable" means the property tax exclusive of special assessments, penalties, and interest payable on a claimant's homestead before reductions made under section 273.13 but after deductions made under sections 273.135, 273.1391, 273.42, subdivision 2, and any other state paid property tax credits in any calendar year. In the case of a claimant who makes ground lease payments, "property taxes payable" includes the amount of the payments directly attributable to the property taxes assessed against the parcel on which the house is located. No apportionment or reduction of the "property taxes payable" shall be required for the use of a portion of the claimant's homestead for a business purpose if the claimant does not deduct any business depreciation expenses for the use of a portion of the homestead in the determination of federal adjusted gross income. For homesteads which are manufactured homes as defined in section 274.19, subdivision 8, "property taxes payable" shall also include the amount of the gross rent paid in the preceding year for the site on which the homestead is located, which is attributable to the net tax paid on the site. The amount attributable to property taxes shall be determined by multiplying the net tax on the parcel by a fraction, the numerator of which is the gross rent paid for the calendar year for the site and the denominator of which is the gross rent paid for the calendar year for the parcel. When a homestead is owned by two or more persons as joint tenants or tenants in common, such tenants shall determine between them which tenant may claim the property taxes payable on the homestead. If they are unable to agree, the matter shall be referred to the commissioner of revenue whose decision shall be final. Property taxes are considered payable in the year prescribed by law for payment of the taxes.

In the case of a claim relating to "property taxes payable," the claimant must have owned and occupied the homestead on January 2 of the year in which the tax is payable and (i) the property must have been classified as homestead property pursuant to section 273.13, subdivision 22 or 23, on or before June 1 of the year in which the "property taxes payable" were levied; or (ii) the claimant must provide documentation from the local assessor that application for homestead classification has been made prior to October 1 of the year in which the "property taxes payable" were payable and that the assessor has approved the application.

[For text of subds 14 and 15, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 13 art 2 s 9; 1993 c 375 art 6 s 1-3

290A.04 REFUND ALLOWABLE.

Subdivision 1. A refund shall be allowed each claimant in the amount that property taxes payable or rent constituting property taxes exceed the percentage of the household income of the claimant specified in subdivision 2 or 2a in the year for which the taxes were levied or in the year in which the rent was paid as specified in subdivision 2 or 2a. If the amount of property taxes payable or rent constituting property taxes is equal to or less than the percentage of the household income of the claimant specified in subdivision 2 or 2a in the year for which the taxes were levied or in the year in which the rent was paid, the claimant shall not be eligible for a state refund pursuant to this section.

[For text of subs 2 to 2b, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 2h. (a) If the gross property taxes payable on a homestead increase more than 12 percent over the net property taxes payable in the prior year on the same property that is owned and occupied by the same owner on January 2 of both years, and the amount of that increase is \$80 or more for taxes payable in 1993, and \$100 or more for taxes payable in 1994, 1995, and 1996, a claimant who is a homeowner shall be allowed an additional refund equal to 75 percent of the amount of the increase over the greater of 12 percent of the prior year's net property taxes payable or \$80 for taxes payable in 1993, and 75 percent of the amount of the increase over the greater of 12 percent of the prior year's net property taxes payable or \$100 for taxes payable in 1994, 1995, and 1996. This subdivision shall not apply to any increase in the gross property taxes payable attributable to improvements made to the homestead after the assessment date for the prior year's taxes.

The maximum refund allowed under this subdivision is \$1,500.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the meanings given:

(1) "Net property taxes payable" means property taxes payable minus refund amounts for which the claimant qualifies pursuant to subdivision 2 and this subdivision.

(2) "Gross property taxes" means net property taxes payable determined without regard to the refund allowed under this subdivision.

(c) In addition to the other proofs required by this chapter, each claimant under this subdivision shall file with the property tax refund return a copy of the property tax statement for taxes payable in the preceding year or other documents required by the commissioner.

On or before December 1, 1993, 1994, and 1995, the commissioner shall estimate the cost of making the payments provided by this subdivision for taxes payable in the following year. Notwithstanding the open appropriation provision of section 290A.23, if the estimated total refund claims for taxes payable in 1994, 1995, and 1996 exceed \$5,500,000, for each of the three years the commissioner shall increase the \$100 amount of tax increase which must occur before a taxpayer qualifies for a refund, and increase by an equal amount the \$100 threshold used in determining the amount of the refund, so that the estimated total refund claims do not exceed \$5,500,000 for taxes payable in 1994, for taxes payable in 1995, or for taxes payable in 1996.

The determinations of the revised thresholds by the commissioner are not rules subject to chapter 14.

[For text of subs 2i to 5, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 6. **Inflation adjustment.** Beginning for property tax refunds payable in calendar year 1995, the commissioner shall annually adjust the dollar amounts of the income thresholds and the maximum refunds under subdivisions 2 and 2a for inflation. The commissioner shall make the inflation adjustments in accordance with section 290.06, subdivision 2d, except that for purposes of this subdivision the percentage increase shall be determined from the year ending on August 31, 1993, to the year ending on August 31 of the year preceding that in which the refund is payable. The commissioner

shall round the thresholds and the maximum amounts, as adjusted to the nearest \$10 amount. If the amount ends in \$5, the commissioner shall round it up to the next \$10 amount.

The commissioner shall annually announce the adjusted refund schedule at the same time provided under section 290.06. The determination of the commissioner under this subdivision is not a rule under the administrative procedure act.

History: 1993 c 375 art 2 s 32,33; art 6 s 4,5

290A.23 APPROPRIATION.

Subdivision 1. **Renters credit.** For payments made before July 1, 1996, there is appropriated from the general fund in the state treasury to the commissioner of revenue the amount necessary to make the payments required under section 290A.04, subdivision 2a. For payments made after June 30, 1996, the amount necessary to make the payments required under section 290A.04, subdivision 2a, are appropriated to the commissioner of revenue from the local government trust fund.

Subd. 2. **Homeowners property tax refund and targeting.** There is appropriated from the local government trust fund to the commissioner of revenue the amount necessary to make the payments required under section 290A.04, subdivisions 2 and 2h.

History: 1993 c 375 art 6 s 6

290A.24 [Repealed, 1993 c 192 s 110]