

CHAPTER 298

OCCUPATION TAXES

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298.2211 FINANCING ACTIVITIES.

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

Subd. 3. Project approval. All projects authorized by this section shall be submitted by the commissioner to the iron range resources and rehabilitation board, which shall recommend approval or disapproval or modification of the projects. Prior to the commencement of a project involving the exercise by the commissioner of any authority of sections 469.174 to 469.179, the governing body of each municipality in which any part of the project is located and the county board of any county containing portions of the project not located in an incorporated area shall by majority vote approve or disapprove the project. Any project, as so approved by the board and the applicable governing bodies, if any, together with detailed information concerning the project, its costs, the sources of its funding, and the amount of any bonded indebtedness to be incurred in connection with the project, shall be transmitted to the governor, who shall approve, disapprove, or return the proposal for additional consideration within 30 days of receipt. No project authorized under this section shall be undertaken, and no obligations shall be issued and no tax increments shall be expended for a project authorized under this section until the project has been approved by the governor.

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

History: 1993 c 369 s 108

298.2213 NORTHEAST MINNESOTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 4. Project approval. The board shall by August 1, 1987, and each year thereafter prepare a list of projects to be funded from the money appropriated in this section with necessary supporting information including descriptions of the projects, plans, and cost estimates. A project must not be approved by the board unless it finds that:

- (1) the project will materially assist, directly or indirectly, the creation of additional long-term employment opportunities;
- (2) the prospective benefits of the expenditure exceed the anticipated costs; and
- (3) in the case of assistance to private enterprise, the project will serve a sound business purpose.

To be proposed by the board, a project must be approved by at least eight iron range resources and rehabilitation board members and the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation. The list of projects must be submitted to the governor, who shall, by November 15 of each year, approve, disapprove, or return for further consideration, each project. The money for a project may be spent only upon approval of the project by the governor. The board may submit supplemental projects for approval at any time.

[For text of subds 5 and 6, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 369 s 109

298.223 TACONITE AREA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND.*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1992]*

Subd. 2. Administration. The taconite environmental protection fund shall be administered by the commissioner of the iron range resources and rehabilitation board. The commissioner shall by September 1 of each year prepare a list of projects to be funded from the taconite environmental protection fund, with such supporting information including description of the projects, plans, and cost estimates as may be necessary. Upon recommendation of the iron range resources and rehabilitation board, this list shall be submitted to the governor by November 1 of each year. By December 1 of each year, the governor shall approve or disapprove, or return for further consideration, each project. Funds for a project may be expended only upon approval of the project by the governor. The commissioner may submit supplemental projects for approval at any time.

*[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1992]***History:** 1993 c 369 s 110**298.227 TACONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.**

An amount equal to that distributed pursuant to each taconite producer's taxable production and qualifying sales under section 298.28, subdivision 9a, shall be held by the iron range resources and rehabilitation board in a separate taconite economic development fund for each taconite producer. Money from the fund for each producer shall be released only on the written authorization of a joint committee consisting of an equal number of representatives of the salaried employees and the nonsalaried production and maintenance employees of that producer. The district 33 director of the United States Steelworkers of America, on advice of each local employee president, shall select the employee members. In nonorganized operations, the employee committee shall be elected by the nonsalaried production and maintenance employees. Each producer's joint committee may authorize release of the funds held pursuant to this section only for acquisition of equipment and facilities for the producer or for research and development in Minnesota on new mining, or taconite, iron, or steel production technology. Funds may be released only upon a majority vote of the representatives of the committee. Any portion of the fund which is not released by a joint committee within two years of its deposit in the fund shall be divided between the taconite environmental protection fund created in section 298.223 and the northeast Minnesota economic protection trust fund created in section 298.292 for placement in their respective special accounts. Two-thirds of the unreleased funds shall be distributed to the taconite environmental protection fund and one-third to the northeast Minnesota economic protection trust fund. This section is effective for taxes payable in 1993 and 1994.

History: 1993 c 375 art 16 s 1**298.27 COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF TAX.**

The taxes provided by section 298.24 shall be paid directly to each eligible county and the iron range resources and rehabilitation board. The commissioner of revenue shall notify each producer of the amount to be paid each recipient prior to February 15. Every person subject to taxes imposed by section 298.24 shall file a correct report covering the preceding year. The report must contain the information required by the commissioner. The report shall be filed on or before February 1. A remittance equal to 100 percent of the total tax required to be paid hereunder shall be paid on or before February 24. On or before February 25, the county auditor shall make distribution of the payment received by the county in the manner provided by section 298.28. Reports shall be made and hearings held upon the determination of the tax in accordance with procedures established by the commissioner of revenue. The commissioner of revenue shall have authority to make reasonable rules as to the form and manner of filing reports necessary for the determination of the tax hereunder, and by such rules may require

the production of such information as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the determination and apportionment of the tax. All the provisions of the occupation tax law with reference to the assessment and determination of the occupation tax, including all provisions for appeals from or review of the orders of the commissioner of revenue relative thereto, but not including provisions for refunds, are applicable to the taxes imposed by section 298.24 except in so far as inconsistent herewith. If any person subject to section 298.24 shall fail to make the report provided for in this section at the time and in the manner herein provided, the commissioner of revenue shall in such case, upon information possessed or obtained, ascertain the kind and amount of ore mined or produced and thereon find and determine the amount of the tax due from such person. There shall be added to the amount of tax due a penalty for failure to report on or before February 1, which penalty shall equal ten percent of the tax imposed and be treated as a part thereof.

If any person responsible for making a tax payment at the time and in the manner herein provided fails to do so, there shall be imposed a penalty equal to ten percent of the amount so due, which penalty shall be treated as part of the tax due.

In the case of any underpayment of the tax payment required herein, there may be added and be treated as part of the tax due a penalty equal to ten percent of the amount so underpaid.

A person having a liability of \$120,000 or more during a calendar year must remit all liabilities by means of a funds transfer as defined in section 336.4A-104, paragraph (a). The funds transfer payment date, as defined in section 336A.4A-401, must be on or before the date the tax is due. If the date the tax is due is not a funds transfer business day, as defined in section 336.4A-105, paragraph (a), clause (4), the payment date must be on or before the funds transfer business day next following the date the tax is due.

History: 1993 c 375 art 10 s 42

298.28 DIVISION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 4. **School districts.** (a) 27.5 cents per taxable ton plus the increase provided in paragraph (d) must be allocated to qualifying school districts to be distributed, based upon the certification of the commissioner of revenue, under paragraphs (b) and (c).

(b) 5.5 cents per taxable ton must be distributed to the school districts in which the lands from which taconite was mined or quarried were located or within which the concentrate was produced. The distribution must be based on the apportionment formula prescribed in subdivision 2.

(c)(i) 22 cents per taxable ton, less any amount distributed under paragraph (e), shall be distributed to a group of school districts comprised of those school districts in which the taconite was mined or quarried or the concentrate produced or in which there is a qualifying municipality as defined by section 273.134 in direct proportion to school district indexes as follows: for each school district, its pupil units determined under section 124.17 for the prior school year shall be multiplied by the ratio of the average adjusted net tax capacity per pupil unit for school districts receiving aid under this clause as calculated pursuant to chapter 124A for the school year ending prior to distribution to the adjusted net tax capacity per pupil unit of the district. Each district shall receive that portion of the distribution which its index bears to the sum of the indices for all school districts that receive the distributions.

(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), each school district that receives a distribution under sections 298.018; 298.23 to 298.28, exclusive of any amount received under this clause; 298.34 to 298.39; 298.391 to 298.396; 298.405; or any law imposing a tax on severed mineral values that is less than the amount of its levy reduction under section 124.918, subdivision 8, for the second year prior to the year of the distribution shall receive a distribution equal to the difference; the amount necessary to make this pay-

ment shall be derived from proportionate reductions in the initial distribution to other school districts under clause (i).

(d) Any school district described in paragraph (c) where a levy increase pursuant to section 124A.03, subdivision 2, is authorized by referendum, shall receive a distribution according to the following formula. In 1994, the amount distributed per ton shall be equal to the amount per ton distributed in 1991 under this paragraph increased in the same proportion as the increase between the fourth quarter of 1989 and the fourth quarter of 1992 in the implicit price deflator as defined in section 298.24, subdivision 1. On July 15, 1995, and subsequent years, the increase over the amount established for the prior year shall be determined according to the increase in the implicit price deflator as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1. Each district shall receive the product of:

(i) \$175 times the pupil units identified in section 124.17, subdivision 1, enrolled in the second previous year or the 1983-1984 school year, whichever is greater, less the product of 1.8 percent times the district's taxable net tax capacity in the second previous year; times

(ii) the lesser of:

(A) one, or

(B) the ratio of the sum of the amount certified pursuant to section 124A.03, subdivision 1g, in the previous year, plus the amount certified pursuant to section 124A.03, subdivision 1i, in the previous year, plus the referendum aid according to section 124A.03, subdivision 1h, for the current year, plus an amount equal to the reduction under section 124A.03, subdivision 3b, to the product of 1.8 percent times the district's taxable net tax capacity in the second previous year.

If the total amount provided by paragraph (d) is insufficient to make the payments herein required then the entitlement of \$175 per pupil unit shall be reduced uniformly so as not to exceed the funds available. Any amounts received by a qualifying school district in any fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (d) shall not be applied to reduce general education aid which the district receives pursuant to section 124A.23 or the permissible levies of the district. Any amount remaining after the payments provided in this paragraph shall be paid to the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation who shall deposit the same in the taconite environmental protection fund and the northeast Minnesota economic protection trust fund as provided in subdivision 11.

Each district receiving money according to this paragraph shall reserve \$25 times the number of pupil units in the district. It may use the money for early childhood programs or for outcome-based learning programs that enhance the academic quality of the district's curriculum. The outcome-based learning programs must be approved by the commissioner of education.

(e) There shall be distributed to any school district the amount which the school district was entitled to receive under section 298.32 in 1975.

[For text of subds 5 and 6, see M.S. 1992]

Subd. 7. Iron range resources and rehabilitation board. Three cents per taxable ton shall be paid to the iron range resources and rehabilitation board for the purposes of section 298.22. The amount determined in this subdivision shall be increased in 1981 and subsequent years prior to 1988 in the same proportion as the increase in the steel mill products index as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1, and shall be increased in 1989, 1990, and 1991 according to the increase in the implicit price deflator as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1. In 1992 and 1993, the amount distributed per ton shall be the same as the amount distributed per ton in 1991. In 1994, the amount distributed shall be the distribution per ton for 1991 increased in the same proportion as the increase between the fourth quarter of 1989 and the fourth quarter of 1992 in the implicit price deflator as defined in section 298.24, subdivision 1. That amount shall be increased in 1995 and subsequent years in the same proportion as the increase in the implicit price deflator as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1. The amount

distributed in 1988 shall be increased according to the increase that would have occurred in the rate of tax under section 298.24 if the rate had been adjusted according to the implicit price deflator for 1987 production. The amount distributed pursuant to this subdivision shall be expended within or for the benefit of a tax relief area defined in section 273.134. No part of the fund provided in this subdivision may be used to provide loans for the operation of private business unless the loan is approved by the governor.

[For text of subds 8 and 9, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 9a. Taconite economic development fund. (a) 10.4 cents per ton for distributions in 1993 and 15.4 cents per ton for distributions in 1994 shall be paid to the taconite economic development fund. No distribution shall be made under this paragraph in any year in which total industry production falls below 30 million tons.

(b) An amount equal to 50 percent of the tax under section 298.24 for concentrate sold in the form of pellet chips and fines not exceeding 1/4 inch in size and not including crushed pellets shall be paid to the taconite economic development fund. The amount paid shall not exceed \$700,000 annually for all companies. If the initial amount to be paid to the fund exceeds this amount, each company's payment shall be prorated so the total does not exceed \$700,000.

Subd. 10. Increase. The amounts determined under subdivisions 6, paragraph (a), and 9 shall be increased in 1979 and subsequent years prior to 1988 in the same proportion as the increase in the steel mill products index as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1. The amount distributed in 1988 shall be increased according to the increase that would have occurred in the rate of tax under section 298.24 if the rate had been adjusted according to the implicit price deflator for 1987 production. Those amounts shall be increased in 1989, 1990, and 1991 in the same proportion as the increase in the implicit price deflator as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1. In 1992 and 1993, the amounts determined under subdivisions 6, paragraph (a), and 9, shall be the distribution per ton determined for distribution in 1991. In 1994, the amounts determined under subdivisions 6, paragraph (a), and 9, shall be the distribution per ton determined for distribution in 1991 increased in the same proportion as the increase between the fourth quarter of 1989 and the fourth quarter of 1992 in the implicit price deflator as defined in section 298.24, subdivision 1. Those amounts shall be increased in 1995 and subsequent years in the same proportion as the increase in the implicit price deflator as provided in section 298.24, subdivision 1.

The distributions per ton determined under subdivisions 5, paragraphs (b) and (d), and 6, paragraphs (b) and (c) for distribution in 1988 and subsequent years shall be the distribution per ton determined for distribution in 1987.

[For text of subds 11 to 15, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 224 art 1 s 31; 1993 c 369 s 111; 1993 c 375 art 16 s 2-5; 1Sp1993 c 6 s 31

298.296 OPERATION OF FUND.

Subdivision 1. Project approval. The board shall by August 1 of each year prepare a list of projects to be funded from the northeast Minnesota economic protection trust with necessary supporting information including description of the projects, plans, and cost estimates. These projects shall be consistent with the priorities established in section 298.292 and shall not be approved by the board unless it finds that:

- (a) the project will materially assist, directly or indirectly, the creation of additional long-term employment opportunities;
- (b) the prospective benefits of the expenditure exceed the anticipated costs; and
- (c) in the case of assistance to private enterprise, the project will serve a sound business purpose.

To be proposed by the board, a project must be approved by at least eight iron

range resources and rehabilitation board members and the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation. The list of projects shall be submitted to the governor, who shall, by November 15 of each year, approve or disapprove, or return for further consideration, each project. The money for a project may be expended only upon approval of the project by the governor. The board may submit supplemental projects for approval at any time.

[For text of subds 2 and 3, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 369 s 112

298.75 AGGREGATE MATERIAL REMOVAL; PRODUCTION TAX.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 4. If the county auditor has not received the report by the 15th day after the last day of each calendar quarter from the operator or importer as required by subdivision 3 or has received an erroneous report, the county auditor shall estimate the amount of tax due and notify the operator or importer by registered mail of the amount of tax so estimated within the next 14 days. An operator or importer may, within 30 days from the date of mailing the notice, file in the office of the county auditor a written statement of objections to the amount of taxes determined to be due. The statement of objections shall be deemed to be a petition within the meaning of chapter 278, and shall be governed by sections 278.02 to 278.13.

Subd. 5. Failure to file the report and submit payment shall result in a penalty of \$5 for each of the first 30 days, beginning on the 15th day after the last day of each calendar quarter, for which the report and payment is due and no statement of objection has been filed as provided in subdivision 4, and a penalty of \$10 for each subsequent day shall be assessed against the operator or importer who is required to file the report. The penalties imposed by this subdivision shall be collected as part of the tax and credited to the county revenue fund. If neither the report nor a statement of objection has been filed after more than 60 days have elapsed from the date when the notice was sent, the operator or importer who is required to file the report is guilty of a misdemeanor.

[For text of subds 6 and 7, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 375 art 9 s 41,42