

CHAPTER 475

PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS

475.61 Tax levies.
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obligations; validity; procedure.

475.61 TAX LEVIES.

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

Subd. 3. **Irrevocability.** Tax levies so made and filed shall be irrevocable, except as provided in this subdivision.

In each year when there is on hand any excess amount in the debt redemption fund of a school district at the time the district makes its property tax levies, the amount of the excess shall be certified by the school board to the commissioner. The commissioner shall report the amount of the excess to the county auditor and the auditor shall reduce the tax levy otherwise to be included in the rolls next prepared by the amount certified. The commissioner shall prescribe the form and calculation to be used in computing the excess amount. The school board may, with the approval of the commissioner, retain the excess amount if it is necessary to ensure the prompt and full payment of the obligations and any call premium on the obligations, or will be used for redemption of the obligations in accordance with their terms. The school board may, with the approval of the commissioner, specify a tax levy in a higher amount if necessary because of anticipated tax delinquency or for cash flow needs to meet the required payments from the debt redemption fund.

If the governing body, including the governing body of a school district, in any year makes an irrevocable appropriation to the debt service fund of money actually on hand or if there is on hand any excess amount in the debt service fund, the recording officer may certify to the county auditor the fact and amount thereof and the auditor shall reduce by the amount so certified the amount otherwise to be included in the rolls next thereafter prepared.

[For text of subds 4 and 5, see M.S.1992]

History: 1993 c 224 art 5 s 40; art 8 s 12

475.66 DEBT SERVICE FUND.

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

Subd. 3. Subject to the provisions of any resolutions or other instruments securing obligations payable from a debt service fund, any balance in the fund may be invested

(a) in governmental bonds, notes, bills, mortgages, and other securities, which are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress, excluding mortgage-backed securities that are defined as high risk pursuant to subdivision 5, or in certificates of deposit secured by letters of credit issued by federal home loan banks,

(b) in shares of an investment company (1) registered under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940, whose shares are registered under the Federal Securities Act of 1933, and (2) whose only investments are in (i) securities described in the preceding clause, except that mortgage-backed securities defined as high risk pursuant to subdivision 5 do not apply to shares of an investment company, (ii) general obligation tax-exempt securities rated A or better by a national bond rating service, and (iii) repurchase agreements or reverse repurchase agreements fully collateralized by those securities, if the repurchase agreements or reverse repurchase agreements are entered into only with those primary reporting dealers that report to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and with the 100 largest United States commercial banks,

(c) in any security which is (1) a general obligation of the state of Minnesota or any of its municipalities, or (2) a general obligation of another state or local government with taxing powers which is rated A or better by a national bond rating service, or (3) a general obligation of the Minnesota housing finance agency, or (4) a general obligation of a housing finance agency of any state if it includes a moral obligation of the state, or (5) a general or revenue obligation of any agency or authority of the state of Minnesota other than a general obligation of the Minnesota housing finance agency. Investments under clauses (3) and (4) must be in obligations that are rated A or better by a national bond rating service and investments under clause (5) must be in obligations that are rated AA or better by a national bond rating service,

(d) in bankers acceptances of United States banks eligible for purchase by the Federal Reserve System,

(e) in commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries that is of the highest quality and matures in 270 days or less, or

(f) in guaranteed investment contracts issued or guaranteed by United States commercial banks or domestic branches of foreign banks or United States insurance companies or their Canadian or United States subsidiaries; provided that the investment contracts rank on a parity with the senior unsecured debt obligations of the issuer or guarantor and, (1) in the case of long-term investment contracts, either (i) the long-term senior unsecured debt of the issuer or guarantor is rated, or obligations backed by letters of credit of the issuer or guarantor if forming the primary basis of a rating of such obligations would be rated, in the highest or next highest rating category of Standard & Poor's Corporation, Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or a similar nationally recognized rating agency, or (ii) if the issuer is a bank with headquarters in Minnesota, the long-term senior unsecured debt of the issuer is rated, or obligations backed by letters of credit of the issuer if forming the primary basis of a rating of such obligations would be rated in one of the three highest rating categories of Standard & Poor's Corporation, Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or similar nationally recognized rating agency, or (2) in the case of short-term investment contracts, the short-term unsecured debt of the issuer or guarantor is rated, or obligations backed by letters of credit of the issuer or guarantor if forming the primary basis of a rating of such obligations would be rated, in the highest two rating categories of Standard and Poor's Corporation, Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or similar nationally recognized rating agency.

The fund may also be used to purchase any obligation, whether general or special, of an issue which is payable from the fund, at such price, which may include a premium, as shall be agreed to by the holder, or may be used to redeem any obligation of such an issue prior to maturity in accordance with its terms. The securities representing any such investment may be sold or hypothecated by the municipality at any time, but the money so received remains a part of the fund until used for the purpose for which the fund was created.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 5. For the purposes of this section, "high risk mortgage-backed securities" are:

(a) interest-only or principal-only mortgage-backed securities; and

(b) any mortgage derivative security that:

(1) has an expected average life greater than ten years;

(2) has an expected average life that:

(i) will extend by more than four years as the result of an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of plus 300 basis points; or

(ii) will shorten by more than six years as the result of an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of minus 300 basis points; or

(3) will have an estimated change in price of more than 17 percent, as the result of an immediate and sustained parallel shift in the yield curve of plus or minus 300 basis points.

Subd. 6. (a) For the purpose of this subdivision, the term "broker" means a broker-dealer, broker, or agent of a municipality, who transfers, purchases, sells, or obtains securities for, or on behalf of, a municipality.

(b) Prior to completing an initial transaction with a broker, a municipality shall provide to the broker a written statement of investment restrictions which shall include a provision that all future investments are to be made in accordance with Minnesota Statutes governing the investment of public funds.

A broker must acknowledge receipt of the statement of investment restrictions in writing and agree to handle the municipality's account in accordance with these restrictions. A municipality may not enter into a transaction with a broker until the broker has provided this written agreement to the municipality.

The state auditor shall prepare uniform notification forms which shall be used by the municipalities and the brokers to meet the requirements of this subdivision.

History: 1993 c 13 art 1 s 43; 1993 c 315 s 17-19

475.67 REFUNDING BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS; VALIDITY; PROCEDURE.

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

Subd. 3. (a) Any or all obligations and interest thereon may be refunded if and when and to the extent that for any reason the taxes or special assessments, revenues, or other funds appropriated for their payment are not sufficient to pay all principal and interest due or about to become due thereon.

(b) Any or all obligations of one or more issues regardless of their source of payment and interest thereon may be refunded before their due dates, if:

(1) consistent with covenants made with the holders thereof; and

(2) determined by the governing body to be necessary or desirable:

(i) for the reduction of debt service cost to the municipality; or

(ii) for the extension or adjustment of the maturities in relation to the resources available for their payment; or

(iii) for the issuance of obligations bearing a fixed rate of interest in the case of obligations bearing interest at a rate varying periodically; or

(iv) in the case of obligations payable solely from a special fund, for the more advantageous sale of additional obligations payable from the same fund or to relieve the municipality of restrictions imposed by covenants made with the holders of the obligations to be refunded.

(c) The amount of interest which may be refunded from the proceeds of the refunding obligations shall not exceed the amount of proceeds estimated to be required in excess of the principal amount of refunded obligations to retire the refunded obligations in accordance with subdivision 6.

(d) No general obligations, for which the full faith and credit of the issuer is pledged, shall be issued to refund special obligations previously issued for any purpose, payable solely from a special fund, unless the issuance is authorized by the election, hearing, petition, resolution, or other procedure that would have been required as a condition precedent to the original issuance of general obligations for the same purpose.

[For text of subds 4 to 12, see M.S.1992]

Subd. 13. Crossover refunding obligations may be issued by a municipality without regard to the limitations in subdivisions 4 to 10. The proceeds of crossover refunding obligations, less any proceeds applied to payment of the costs of their issuance, shall be deposited in a debt service fund irrevocably appropriated to the payment of principal of and interest on the refunding obligations until the date the proceeds are applied to payment of the obligations to be refunded. The debt service fund shall be maintained

as an escrow account with a suitable financial institution within or without the state and amounts in it shall be invested in securities described in subdivision 8 or in an investment contract or similar agreement with a bank or insurance company meeting the requirements of section 475.66, subdivision 3, clause (f). Excess proceeds, if any, of the tax levy pursuant to section 475.61, subdivision 1, made with respect to the obligations to be refunded, and any other available amounts, may be deposited in the escrow account. In the resolution authorizing the issuance of crossover refunding obligations, the governing body may pledge to their payment any source of payment of the obligations to be refunded. The resolution may provide that the refunding obligations are payable solely from the escrow account prior to the date scheduled for payment of the obligations to be refunded and that the obligations to be refunded shall not be discharged if the amounts on deposit in the escrow account on that date are insufficient. Subdivision 12 applies to crossover refunding obligations, but the present value of debt service on the refunding and refunded obligations shall be determined as of the date the proceeds are applied to payment of the obligations to be refunded. Subject to section 475.61, subdivision 3, in the case of general obligation bonds, taxes shall be levied pursuant to section 475.61 and appropriated to the debt service fund in the amounts needed, together with estimated investment income of the debt service fund and any other revenues available upon discharge of the obligations refunded, to pay when due the principal of and interest on the refunding obligations. The levy so imposed may be reduced by earnings to be received from investments on hand in the debt service fund to the extent the applicable recording officer certifies to the county auditor that the earnings are expected to be received in amounts and at such times as to be sufficient, together with the remaining levy, to satisfy the purpose of the levy requirements under section 475.61.

History: 1993 c 271 s 6,7