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# **CHAPTER 273**

# TAXES; LISTING, ASSESSMENT

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#### 273.061 ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE FOR EACH COUNTY.

Subdivision 1. Office created; appointment, qualifications. Every county in this state shall have a county assessor. The county assessor shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners. The assessor shall be selected and appointed because of knowledge and training in the field of property taxation and appointment shall be approved by the commissioner of revenue before the same shall become effective. Upon receipt by the county commissioners of the commissioner of revenue's refusal to approve an appointment, the term of the appointee shall terminate at the end of that day.

The commissioner of revenue may grant approval on a probationary basis for a period of two years. The commissioner must base the decision to impose a probationary period on objective and consistent criteria. At the end of the two-year probationary period, the commissioner may either refuse to approve the person's appointment for the remainder of the person's four-year term, approve the person's appointment but only for another two-year probationary period. or unconditionally approve the person's appointment for the remainder of the four-year term for which the person was originally appointed by the county board. The criteria shall not be considered rules and are not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a county assessor must have senior accreditation from the state board of assessors by January 1, 1992, or within two years of the assessor's first appointment under this section, whichever is later.

Subd. 2. **Term; vacancy.** (a) The terms of county assessors appointed under this section shall be four years. A new term shall begin on January 1 of every fourth year after 1973. When any vacancy in the office occurs, the board of county commissioners, within 90 days thereafter, shall fill the same by appointment for the remainder of the term, following the procedure prescribed in subdivision 1. The term of the county assessor may be terminated by the board of county commissioners at any time, on charges of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance by the commissioner of revenue. If the board of county commissioners does not intend to reappoint a county assessor who has been certified by the state board of assessors, the board shall present written notice to the county assessor not later than 90 days prior to the termination of the assessor's term, that it does not intend to reappoint the assessor. If written notice is not timely made, the county assessor will automatically be reappointed by the board of county commissioners.

The commissioner of revenue may recommend to the state board of assessors the nonrenewal, suspension, or revocation of an assessor's license as provided in sections 270.41 to 270.53.

(b) In the event of a vacancy in the office of county assessor, through death, resignation or other reasons, the deputy (or chief deputy, if more than one) shall perform the functions of the office. If there is no deputy, the county auditor shall

designate a person to perform the duties of the office until an appointment is made as provided in clause (a). Such person shall perform the duties of the office for a period not exceeding 90 days during which the county board must appoint a county assessor. Such 90-day period may, however, be extended by written approval of the commissioner of revenue.

(c) In the case of the first appointment under paragraph (a) of a county assessor who is accredited but who does not have senior accreditation, an approval of the appointment by the commissioner shall be provisional, provided that a county assessor appointed to a provisional term under this paragraph must reapply to the commissioner at the end of the provisional term. A provisional term may not exceed two years. The commissioner shall not approve the appointment for the remainder of the four-year term unless the assessor has obtained senior accreditation.

[For text of subds 3 to 10, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 14,15

#### 273.072 AGREEMENTS FOR JOINT ASSESSMENT.

Subdivision 1. Any county and any city or town lying wholly or partially within the county and constituting a separate assessment district may, by agreement entered into under section 471.59, provide for the assessment of property in the municipality or town by the county assessor. Any two or more cities or towns constituting separate assessment districts may enter into an agreement under section 471.59 for the assessment of property in the contracting units by the assessor of one of the units or by an assessor who is jointly employed.

[For text of subds 2 to 6, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 16

## 273.0755 TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF PROPERTY TAX PERSONNEL.

- (a) Beginning with the four-year period starting on July 1, 2000, every person licensed by the state board of assessors at the Accredited Minnesota Assessor level or higher, shall successfully complete a week-long Minnesota laws course sponsored by the department of revenue at least once in every four-year period. An assessor need not attend the course if they successfully pass the test for the course.
- (b) The commissioner of revenue may require that each county, and each city for which the city assessor performs the duties of county assessor, have (i) a person on the assessor's staff who is certified by the department of revenue in sales ratio calculations, (ii) an officer or employee who is certified by the department of revenue in tax calculations, and (iii) an officer or employee who is certified by the department of revenue in the proper preparation of abstracts of assessment. The commissioner of revenue may require that each county have an officer or employee who is certified by the department of revenue in the proper preparation of abstracts of tax lists.

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 17

#### 273.11 VALUATION OF PROPERTY.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 1a. Limited market value. In the case of all property classified as agricultural homestead or nonhomestead, residential homestead or nonhomestead, timber, or noncommercial seasonal recreational residential, the assessor shall compare the value with the taxable portion of the value determined in the preceding assessment.

For assessment year 2002, the amount of the increase shall not exceed the greater of (1) ten percent of the value in the preceding assessment, or (2) 15 percent of the difference between the current assessment and the preceding assessment.

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For assessment year 2003, the amount of the increase shall not exceed the greater of (1) 12 percent of the value in the preceding assessment, or (2) 20 percent of the difference between the current assessment and the preceding assessment.

For assessment year 2004, the amount of the increase shall not exceed the greater of (1) 15 percent of the value in the preceding assessment, or (2) 25 percent of the difference between the current assessment and the preceding assessment.

For assessment year 2005, the amount of the increase shall not exceed the greater of (1) 15 percent of the value in the preceding assessment, or (2) 33 percent of the difference between the current assessment and the preceding assessment.

For assessment year 2006, the amount of the increase shall not exceed the greater of (1) 15 percent of the value in the preceding assessment, or (2) 50 percent of the difference between the current assessment and the preceding assessment.

This limitation shall not apply to increases in value due to improvements. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "assessment" means the value prior to any exclusion under subdivision 16.

The provisions of this subdivision shall be in effect through assessment year 2006 as provided in this subdivision.

For purposes of the assessment/sales ratio study conducted under section 127A.48, and the computation of state aids paid under chapters 122A, 123A, 123B, 124D, 125A, 126C, 127A, and 477A, market values and net tax capacities determined under this subdivision and subdivision 16, shall be used.

### [For text of subds 5 to 13, see M.S.2000]

- Subd. 14. Vacant land platted before August 1, 2001. (a) All land platted before August 1, 2001, and not improved with a permanent structure, shall be assessed as provided in this subdivision. The assessor shall determine the market value of each individual lot based upon the highest and best use of the property as unplatted land. In establishing the market value of the property, the assessor shall consider the sale price of the unplatted land or comparable sales of unplatted land of similar use and similar availability of public utilities.
- (b) The market value determined in paragraph (a) shall be increased as follows for each of the three assessment years immediately following the final approval of the plat: one-third of the difference between the property's unplatted market value as determined under paragraph (a) and the market value based upon the highest and best use of the land as platted property shall be added in each of the three subsequent assessment years.
- (c) Any increase in market value after the first assessment year following the plat's final approval shall be added to the property's market value in the next assessment year. Notwithstanding paragraph (b), if construction begins before the expiration of the three years in paragraph (b), that lot shall be eligible for revaluation in the next assessment year. The market value of a platted lot determined under this subdivision shall not exceed the value of that lot based upon the highest and best use of the property as platted land.
- Subd. 14a. Vacant land platted on or after August 1, 2001; located in metropolitan counties. (a) All land platted on or after August 1, 2001, located in a metropolitan county, and not improved with a permanent structure, shall be assessed as provided in this subdivision. The assessor shall determine the market value of each individual lot based upon the highest and best use of the property as unplatted land. In establishing the market value of the property, the assessor shall consider the sale price of the unplatted land or comparable sales of unplatted land of similar use and similar availability of public utilities.
- (b) The market value determined in paragraph (a) shall be increased as follows for each of the three assessment years immediately following the final approval of the plat: one-third of the difference between the property's unplatted market value as determined under paragraph (a) and the market value based upon the highest and best use

of the land as platted property shall be added in each of the three subsequent assessment years.

- (c) Any increase in market value after the first assessment year following the plat's final approval shall be added to the property's market value in the next assessment year. Notwithstanding paragraph (b), if construction begins before the expiration of the three years in paragraph (b), that lot shall be eligible for revaluation in the next assessment year. The market value of a platted lot determined under this subdivision shall not exceed the value of that lot based upon the highest and best use of the property as platted land.
- (d) For purposes of this section, "metropolitan county" means the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.
- Subd. 14b. Vacant land platted on or after August 1, 2001; located in nonmetropolitan counties. (a) All land platted on or after August 1, 2001, located in a nonmetropolitan county, and not improved with a permanent structure, shall be assessed as provided in this subdivision. The assessor shall determine the market value of each individual lot based upon the highest and best use of the property as unplatted land. In establishing the market value of the property, the assessor shall consider the sale price of the unplatted land or comparable sales of unplatted land of similar use and similar availability of public utilities.
- (b) The market value determined in paragraph (a) shall be increased as follows for each of the seven assessment years immediately following the final approval of the plat: one-seventh of the difference between the property's unplatted market value as determined under paragraph (a) and the market value based upon the highest and best use of the land as platted property shall be added in each of the seven subsequent assessment years.
- (c) Any increase in market value after the first assessment year following the plat's final approval shall be added to the property's market value in the next assessment year. Notwithstanding paragraph (b), if construction begins before the expiration of the seven years in paragraph (b), that lot shall be eligible for revaluation in the next assessment year. The market value of a platted lot determined under this subdivision shall not exceed the value of that lot based upon the highest and best use of the property as platted land.

[For text of subds 15 to 19, see M.S.2000]

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 23-26

#### **273.1104 IRON ORE, VALUE.**

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 2. Notice of market value. On or before May 1 in each year, the commissioner shall send to each person subject to the tax on unmined iron ores and to each taxing district affected, a notice of the market value of the unmined ores as determined by the commissioner. Said notice shall be sent by mail directed to such person at the address given in the report filed and the assessor of such taxing district, but the validity of the tax shall not be affected by the failure of the commissioner of revenue to mail such notice or the failure of the person subject to the tax to receive it.

On the first secular day following May 20, the commissioner of revenue shall hold a hearing which may be adjourned from day to day. All relevant and material evidence having probative value with respect to the issues shall be submitted at the hearing and such hearing shall not be a "contested case" within the meaning of section 14.02, subdivision 3. Every person subject to such tax may at such hearing present evidence and argument on any matter bearing upon the validity or correctness of the tax determined to be due, and the commissioner of revenue shall review the determination of such tax.

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 18

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#### 273.111 AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY TAX.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 4. **Determination of value.** The value of any real estate described in subdivision 3 shall upon timely application by the owner, in the manner provided in subdivision 8, be determined solely with reference to its appropriate agricultural classification and value notwithstanding sections 272.03, subdivision 8, and 273.11. In determining the value for ad valorem tax purposes, the assessor shall use sales data for agricultural lands located outside the seven metropolitan counties having similar soil types, number of degree days, and other similar agricultural characteristics. Furthermore, the assessor shall not consider any added values resulting from nonagricultural factors.

[For text of subds 5 to 15, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 19

#### 273.121 VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY, NOTICE.

Any county assessor or city assessor having the powers of a county assessor, valuing or classifying taxable real property shall in each year notify those persons whose property is to be included on the assessment roll that year if the person's address is known to the assessor, otherwise the occupant of the property. The notice shall be in writing and shall be sent by ordinary mail at least ten days before the meeting of the local board of appeal and equalization under section 274.01 or the review process established under section 274.13, subdivision 1c. It shall contain: (1) the market value for the current and prior assessment, (2) the limited market value under section 273.11, subdivision 1a, for the current and prior assessment, (3) the qualifying amount of any improvements under section 273.11, subdivision 16, for the current assessment, (4) the market value subject to taxation after subtracting the amount of any qualifying improvements for the current assessment, (5) the classification of the property for the current and prior assessment, (6) a note that if the property is homestead and at least 35 years old, improvements made to the property may be eligible for a valuation exclusion under section 273.11, subdivision 16, (7) the assessor's office address, and (8) the dates, places, and times set for the meetings of the local board of appeal and equalization, the review process established under section 274.13, subdivision 1c, and the county board of appeal and equalization. The commissioner of revenue shall specify the form of the notice. The assessor shall attach to the assessment roll a statement that the notices required by this section have been mailed. Any assessor who is not provided sufficient funds from the assessor's governing body to provide such notices, may make application to the commissioner of revenue to finance such notices. The commissioner of revenue shall conduct an investigation and, if satisfied that the assessor does not have the necessary funds, issue a certification to the commissioner of finance of the amount necessary to provide such notices. The commissioner of finance shall issue a warrant for such amount and shall deduct such amount from any state payment to such county or municipality. The necessary funds to make such payments are hereby appropriated. Failure to receive the notice shall in no way affect the validity of the assessment, the resulting tax, the procedures of any board of review or equalization, or the enforcement of delinquent taxes by statutory means.

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 20

#### 273.124 HOMESTEAD DETERMINATION; SPECIAL RULES.

Subdivision 1. **General rule.** (a) Residential real estate that is occupied and used for the purposes of a homestead by its owner, who must be a Minnesota resident, is a residential homestead.

Agricultural land, as defined in section 273.13, subdivision 23, that is occupied and used as a homestead by its owner, who must be a Minnesota resident, is an agricultural homestead.

Dates for establishment of a homestead and homestead treatment provided to particular types of property are as provided in this section.

Property held by a trustee under a trust is eligible for homestead classification if the requirements under this chapter are satisfied.

The assessor shall require proof, as provided in subdivision 13, of the facts upon which classification as a homestead may be determined. Notwithstanding any other law, the assessor may at any time require a homestead application to be filed in order to verify that any property classified as a homestead continues to be eligible for homestead status. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the department of revenue may, upon request from an assessor, verify whether an individual who is requesting or receiving homestead classification has filed a Minnesota income tax return as a resident for the most recent taxable year for which the information is available.

When there is a name change or a transfer of homestead property, the assessor may reclassify the property in the next assessment unless a homestead application is filed to verify that the property continues to qualify for homestead classification.

- (b) For purposes of this section, homestead property shall include property which is used for purposes of the homestead but is separated from the homestead by a road, street, lot, waterway, or other similar intervening property. The term "used for purposes of the homestead" shall include but not be limited to uses for gardens, garages, or other outbuildings commonly associated with a homestead, but shall not include vacant land held primarily for future development. In order to receive homestead treatment for the noncontiguous property, the owner must use the property for the purposes of the homestead, and must apply to the assessor, both by the deadlines given in subdivision 9. After initial qualification for the homestead treatment, additional applications for subsequent years are not required.
- (c) Residential real estate that is occupied and used for purposes of a homestead by a relative of the owner is a homestead but only to the extent of the homestead treatment that would be provided if the related owner occupied the property. For purposes of this paragraph and paragraph (g), "relative" means a parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece. This relationship may be by blood or marriage. Property that has been classified as seasonal recreational residential property at any time during which it has been owned by the current owner or spouse of the current owner will not be reclassified as a homestead unless it is occupied as a homestead by the owner; this prohibition also applies to property that, in the absence of this paragraph, would have been classified as seasonal recreational residential property at the time when the residence was constructed. Neither the related occupant nor the owner of the property may claim a property tax refund under chapter 290A for a homestead occupied by a relative. In the case of a residence located on agricultural land, only the house, garage, and immediately surrounding one acre of land shall be classified as a homestead under this paragraph, except as provided in paragraph (d).
- (d) Agricultural property that is occupied and used for purposes of a homestead by a relative of the owner, is a homestead, only to the extent of the homestead treatment that would be provided if the related owner occupied the property, and only if all of the following criteria are met:
- (1) the relative who is occupying the agricultural property is a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, father, or mother of the owner of the agricultural property or a son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter of the spouse of the owner of the agricultural property;
  - (2) the owner of the agricultural property must be a Minnesota resident;
- (3) the owner of the agricultural property must not receive homestead treatment on any other agricultural property in Minnesota; and
- (4) the owner of the agricultural property is limited to only one agricultural homestead per family under this paragraph.

Neither the related occupant nor the owner of the property may claim a property tax refund under chapter 290A for a homestead occupied by a relative qualifying under

this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, "agricultural property" means the house, garage, other farm buildings and structures, and agricultural land.

Application must be made to the assessor by the owner of the agricultural property to receive homestead benefits under this paragraph. The assessor may require the necessary proof that the requirements under this paragraph have been met.

- (e) In the case of property owned by a property owner who is married, the assessor must not deny homestead treatment in whole or in part if only one of the spouses occupies the property and the other spouse is absent due to: (1) marriage dissolution proceedings, (2) legal separation, (3) employment or self-employment in another location, or (4) other personal circumstances causing the spouses to live separately, not including an intent to obtain two homestead classifications for property tax purposes. To qualify under clause (3), the spouse's place of employment or self-employment must be at least 50 miles distant from the other spouse's place of employment, and the homesteads must be at least 50 miles distant from each other. Homestead treatment, in whole or in part, shall not be denied to the owner's spouse who previously occupied the residence with the owner if the absence of the owner is due to one of the exceptions provided in this paragraph.
  - (f) The assessor must not deny homestead treatment in whole or in part if:
- (1) in the case of a property owner who is not married, the owner is absent due to residence in a nursing home, boarding care facility, or an elderly assisted living facility property as defined in section 273.13, subdivision 25a, and the property is not otherwise occupied; or
- (2) in the case of a property owner who is married, the owner or the owner's spouse or both are absent due to residence in a nursing home, boarding care facility, or an elderly assisted living facility property as defined in section 273.13, subdivision 25a, and the property is not occupied or is occupied only by the owner's spouse.
- (g) If an individual is purchasing property with the intent of claiming it as a homestead and is required by the terms of the financing agreement to have a relative shown on the deed as a coowner, the assessor shall allow a full homestead classification. This provision only applies to first-time purchasers, whether married or single, or to a person who had previously been married and is purchasing as a single individual for the first time. The application for homestead benefits must be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and must contain the data necessary for the assessor to determine if full homestead benefits are warranted.
- (h) If residential or agricultural real estate is occupied and used for purposes of a homestead by a child of a deceased owner and the property is subject to jurisdiction of probate court, the child shall receive relative homestead classification under paragraph (c) or (d) to the same extent they would be entitled to it if the owner was still living, until the probate is completed. For purposes of this paragraph, "child" includes a relationship by blood or by marriage.

#### [For text of subds 2 to 7, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 8. Homestead owned by or leased to family farm corporation, joint farm venture, limited liability company, or partnership. (a) Each family farm corporation, each joint family farm venture, each limited liability company, and each partnership operating a family farm is entitled to class 1b under section 273.13, subdivision 22, paragraph (b), or class 2a assessment for one homestead occupied by a shareholder, member, or partner thereof who is residing on the land, and actively engaged in farming of the land owned by the family farm corporation, joint family farm venture, limited liability company, or partnership operating a family farm. Homestead treatment applies even if legal title to the property is in the name of the family farm corporation, joint family farm venture, limited liability company, or partnership operating the family farm, and not in the name of the person residing on it.

"Family farm corporation." "family farm," and "partnership operating a family farm" have the meanings given in section 500.24, except that the number of allowable shareholders, members, or partners under this subdivision shall not exceed 12. "Limited

liability company" has the meaning contained in sections 322B.03, subdivision 28, and 500.24, subdivision 2, paragraphs (I) and (m). "Joint family farm venture" means a cooperative agreement among two or more farm enterprises authorized to operate a family farm under section 500.24.

- (b) In addition to property specified in paragraph (a), any other residences owned by family farm corporations, joint family farm ventures, limited liability companies, or partnerships operating a family farm described in paragraph (a) which are located on agricultural land and occupied as homesteads by its shareholders, members, or partners who are actively engaged in farming on behalf of that corporation, joint farm venture, limited liability company, or partnership must also be assessed as class 2a property or as class 1b property under section 273.13.
- (c) Agricultural property that is owned by a member, partner, or shareholder of a family farm corporation or joint family farm venture, limited liability company, or by a partnership operating a family farm and leased to the family farm corporation, limited liability company, or partnership operating a family farm, or joint farm venture, as defined in paragraph (a), is eligible for classification as class 1b or class 2a under section 273.13, if the owner is actually residing on the property, and is actually engaged in farming the land on behalf of that corporation, joint farm venture, limited liability company, or partnership. This paragraph applies without regard to any legal possession rights of the family farm corporation, joint family farm venture, limited liability company, or partnership operating a family farm under the lease.

### [For text of subds 9 and 10, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 11. Limitation on homestead reductions. If the assessor has classified a property as both homestead and nonhomestead, the reductions in tax provided under sections 273.135 and 273.1391 apply to the value of both the homestead and the nonhomestead portions of the property.

### [For text of subd 12, see M.S.2000]

- Subd. 13. Homestead application. (a) A person who meets the homestead requirements under subdivision 1 must file a homestead application with the county assessor to initially obtain homestead classification.
- (b) On or before January 2. 1993, each county assessor shall mail a homestead application to the owner of each parcel of property within the county which was classified as homestead for the 1992 assessment year. The format and contents of a uniform homestead application shall be prescribed by the commissioner of revenue. The commissioner shall consult with the chairs of the house and senate tax committees on the contents of the homestead application form. The application must clearly inform the taxpayer that this application must be signed by all owners who occupy the property or by the qualifying relative and returned to the county assessor in order for the property to continue receiving homestead treatment. The envelope containing the homestead application shall clearly identify its contents and alert the taxpayer of its necessary immediate response.
- (c) Every property owner applying for homestead classification must furnish to the county assessor the social security number of each occupant who is listed as an owner of the property on the deed of record, the name and address of each owner who does not occupy the property, and the name and social security number of each owner's spouse who occupies the property. The application must be signed by each owner who occupies the property and by each owner's spouse who occupies the property, or, in the case of property that qualifies as a homestead under subdivision 1, paragraph (c), by the qualifying relative.

If a property owner occupies a homestead, the property owner's spouse may not claim another property as a homestead unless the property owner and the property owner's spouse file with the assessor an affidavit or other proof required by the assessor stating that the property qualifies as a homestead under subdivision 1, paragraph (e).

Owners or spouses occupying residences owned by their spouses and previously occupied with the other spouse, either of whom fail to include the other spouse's name and social security number on the homestead application or provide the affidavits or other proof requested, will be deemed to have elected to receive only partial homestead treatment of their residence. The remainder of the residence will be classified as nonhomestead residential. When an owner or spouse's name and social security number appear on homestead applications for two separate residences and only one application is signed, the owner or spouse will be deemed to have elected to homestead the residence for which the application was signed.

The social security numbers or affidavits or other proofs of the property owners and spouses are private data on individuals as defined by section 13.02, subdivision 12, but, notwithstanding that section, the private data may be disclosed to the commissioner of revenue, or, for purposes of proceeding under the Revenue Recapture Act to recover personal property taxes owing, to the county treasurer.

- (d) If residential real estate is occupied and used for purposes of a homestead by a relative of the owner and qualifies for a homestead under subdivision 1, paragraph (c), in order for the property to receive homestead status, a homestead application must be filed with the assessor. The social security number of each relative occupying the property and the social security number of each owner who is related to an occupant of the property shall be required on the homestead application filed under this subdivision. If a different relative of the owner subsequently occupies the property, the owner of the property must notify the assessor within 30 days of the change in occupancy. The social security number of a relative occupying the property is private data on individuals as defined by section 13.02, subdivision 12, but may be disclosed to the commissioner of revenue.
- (e) The homestead application shall also notify the property owners that the application filed under this section will not be mailed annually and that if the property is granted homestead status for the 1993 assessment, or any assessment year thereafter, that same property shall remain classified as homestead until the property is sold or transferred to another person, or the owners, the spouse of the owner, or the relatives no longer use the property as their homestead. Upon the sale or transfer of the homestead property, a certificate of value must be timely filed with the county auditor as provided under section 272.115. Failure to notify the assessor within 30 days that the property has been sold, transferred, or that the owner, the spouse of the owner, or the relative is no longer occupying the property as a homestead, shall result in the penalty provided under this subdivision and the property will lose its current homestead status.
- (f) If the homestead application is not returned within 30 days, the county will send a second application to the present owners of record. The notice of proposed property taxes prepared under section 275.065, subdivision 3, shall reflect the property's classification. Beginning with assessment year 1993 for all properties, if a homestead application has not been filed with the county by December 15, the assessor shall classify the property as nonhomestead for the current assessment year for taxes payable in the following year, provided that the owner may be entitled to receive the homestead classification by proper application under section 375.192.
- (g) At the request of the commissioner, each county must give the commissioner a list that includes the name and social security number of each property owner and the property owner's spouse occupying the property, or relative of a property owner, applying for homestead classification under this subdivision. The commissioner shall use the information provided on the lists as appropriate under the law, including for the detection of improper claims by owners, or relatives of owners, under chapter 290A.
- (h) If the commissioner finds that a property owner may be claiming a fraudulent homestead, the commissioner shall notify the appropriate counties. Within 90 days of the notification, the county assessor shall investigate to determine if the homestead classification was properly claimed. If the property owner does not qualify, the county assessor shall notify the county auditor who will determine the amount of homestead

benefits that had been improperly allowed. For the purpose of this section, "homestead benefits" means the tax reduction resulting from the classification as a homestead under section 273.13, the taconite homestead credit under section 273.135, the residential homestead and agricultural homestead credits under section 273.1384, and the supplemental homestead credit under section 273.1391.

The county auditor shall send a notice to the person who owned the affected property at the time the homestead application related to the improper homestead was filed, demanding reimbursement of the homestead benefits plus a penalty equal to 100 percent of the homestead benefits. The person notified may appeal the county's determination by serving copies of a petition for review with county officials as provided in section 278.01 and filing proof of service as provided in section 278.01 with the Minnesota tax court within 60 days of the date of the notice from the county. Procedurally, the appeal is governed by the provisions in chapter 271 which apply to the appeal of a property tax assessment or levy, but without requiring any prepayment of the amount in controversy. If the amount of homestead benefits and penalty is not paid within 60 days, and if no appeal has been filed, the county auditor shall certify the amount of taxes and penalty to the county treasurer. The county treasurer will add interest to the unpaid homestead benefits and penalty amounts at the rate provided in section 279.03 for real property taxes becoming delinquent in the calendar year during which the amount remains unpaid. Interest may be assessed for the period beginning 60 days after demand for payment was made.

If the person notified is the current owner of the property, the treasurer may add the total amount of homestead benefits, penalty, interest, and costs to the ad valorem taxes otherwise payable on the property by including the amounts on the property tax statements under section 276.04, subdivision 3. The amounts added under this paragraph to the ad valorem taxes shall include interest accrued through December 31 of the year preceding the taxes payable year for which the amounts are first added. These amounts, when added to the property tax statement, become subject to all the laws for the enforcement of real or personal property taxes for that year, and for any subsequent year.

If the person notified is not the current owner of the property, the treasurer may collect the amounts due under the Revenue Recapture Act in chapter 270A, or use any of the powers granted in sections 277.20 and 277.21 without exclusion, to enforce payment of the homestead benefits, penalty, interest, and costs, as if those amounts were delinquent tax obligations of the person who owned the property at the time the application related to the improperly allowed homestead was filed. The treasurer may relieve a prior owner of personal liability for the homestead benefits, penalty, interest, and costs, and instead extend those amounts on the tax lists against the property as provided in this paragraph to the extent that the current owner agrees in writing. On all demands, billings, property tax statements, and related correspondence, the county must list and state separately the amounts of homestead benefits, penalty, interest and costs being demanded, billed or assessed.

- (i) Any amount of homestead benefits recovered by the county from the property owner shall be distributed to the county, city or town, and school district where the property is located in the same proportion that each taxing district's levy was to the total of the three taxing districts' levy for the current year. Any amount recovered attributable to taconite homestead credit shall be transmitted to the St. Louis county auditor to be deposited in the taconite property tax relief account. Any amount recovered that is attributable to supplemental homestead credit is to be transmitted to the commissioner of revenue for deposit in the general fund of the state treasury. The total amount of penalty collected must be deposited in the county general fund.
- (j) If a property owner has applied for more than one homestead and the county assessors cannot determine which property should be classified as homestead, the county assessors will refer the information to the commissioner. The commissioner shall make the determination and notify the counties within 60 days.

- (k) In addition to lists of homestead properties, the commissioner may ask the counties to furnish lists of all properties and the record owners. The social security numbers and federal identification numbers that are maintained by a county or city assessor for property tax administration purposes, and that may appear on the lists retain their classification as private or nonpublic data; but may be viewed, accessed, and used by the county auditor or treasurer of the same county for the limited purpose of assisting the commissioner in the preparation of microdata samples under section 270.0681.
- Subd. 14. Agricultural homesteads; special provisions. (a) Real estate of less than ten acres that is the homestead of its owner must be classified as class 2a under section 273.13, subdivision 23, paragraph (a), if:
- (1) the parcel on which the house is located is contiguous on at least two sides to (i) agricultural land, (ii) land owned or administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or (iii) land administered by the department of natural resources on which in lieu taxes are paid under sections 477A.11 to 477A.14;
- (2) its owner also owns a noncontiguous parcel of agricultural land that is at least 20 acres;
- (3) the noncontiguous land is located not farther than four townships or cities, or a combination of townships or cities from the homestead; and
- (4) the agricultural use value of the noncontiguous land and farm buildings is equal to at least 50 percent of the market value of the house, garage, and one acre of land.

Homesteads initially classified as class 2a under the provisions of this paragraph shall remain classified as class 2a, irrespective of subsequent changes in the use of adjoining properties, as long as the homestead remains under the same ownership, the owner owns a noncontiguous parcel of agricultural land that is at least 20 acres, and the agricultural use value qualifies under clause (4). Homestead classification under this paragraph is limited to property that qualified under this paragraph for the 1998 assessment.

- (b)(i) Agricultural property consisting of at least 40 acres shall be classified as the owner's homestead, to the same extent as other agricultural homestead property, if all of the following criteria are met:
- (1) the owner, the owner's spouse, or the son or daughter of the owner or owner's spouse, is actively farming the agricultural property, either on the person's own behalf as an individual or on behalf of a partnership operating a family farm, family farm corporation, joint family farm venture, or limited liability company of which the person is a partner, shareholder, or member;
- (2) both the owner of the agricultural property and the person who is actively farming the agricultural property under clause (1), are Minnesota residents;
- (3) neither the owner nor the spouse of the owner claims another agricultural homestead in Minnesota; and
- (4) neither the owner nor the person actively farming the property lives farther than four townships or cities, or a combination of four townships or cities, from the agricultural property, except that if the owner or the owner's spouse is required to live in employer-provided housing, the owner or owner's spouse, whichever is actively farming the agricultural property, may live more than four townships or cities. or combination of four townships or cities from the agricultural property.

The relationship under this paragraph may be either by blood or marriage.

- (ii) Real property held by a trustee under a trust is eligible for agricultural homestead classification under this paragraph if the qualifications in clause (i) are met, except that "owner" means the grantor of the trust.
- (iii) Property containing the residence of an owner who owns qualified property under clause (i) shall be classified as part of the owner's agricultural homestead, if that property is also used for noncommercial storage or drying of agricultural crops.

- (c) Noncontiguous land shall be included as part of a homestead under section 273.13, subdivision 23, paragraph (a), only if the homestead is classified as class 2a and the detached land is located in the same township or city, or not farther than four townships or cities or combination thereof from the homestead. Any taxpayer of these noncontiguous lands must notify the county assessor that the noncontiguous land is part of the taxpayer's homestead, and, if the homestead is located in another county, the taxpayer must also notify the assessor of the other county.
- (d) Agricultural land used for purposes of a homestead and actively farmed by a person holding a vested remainder interest in it must be classified as a homestead under section 273.13, subdivision 23, paragraph (a). If agricultural land is classified class 2a, any other dwellings on the land used for purposes of a homestead by persons holding vested remainder interests who are actively engaged in farming the property, and up to one acre of the land surrounding each homestead and reasonably necessary for the use of the dwelling as a home, must also be assessed class 2a.
- (e) Agricultural land and buildings that were class 2a homestead property under section 273.13, subdivision 23, paragraph (a), for the 1997 assessment shall remain classified as agricultural homesteads for subsequent assessments if:
- (1) the property owner abandoned the homestead dwelling located on the agricultural homestead as a result of the April 1997 floods;
- (2) the property is located in the county of Polk, Clay, Kittson, Marshall, Norman, or Wilkin;
- (3) the agricultural land and buildings remain under the same ownership for the current assessment year as existed for the 1997 assessment year and continue to be used for agricultural purposes;
- (4) the dwelling occupied by the owner is located in Minnesota and is within 30 miles of one of the parcels of agricultural land that is owned by the taxpayer; and
- (5) the owner notifies the county assessor that the relocation was due to the 1997 floods, and the owner furnishes the assessor any information deemed necessary by the assessor in verifying the change in dwelling. Further notifications to the assessor are not required if the property continues to meet all the requirements in this paragraph and any dwellings on the agricultural land remain uninhabited.
- (f) Agricultural land and buildings that were class 2a homestead property under section 273.13, subdivision 23, paragraph (a), for the 1998 assessment shall remain classified agricultural homesteads for subsequent assessments if:
- (1) the property owner abandoned the homestead dwelling located on the agricultural homestead as a result of damage caused by a March 29, 1998, tornado;
- (2) the property is located in the county of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, LeSueur, Nicollet, Nobles, or Rice;
- (3) the agricultural land and buildings remain under the same ownership for the current assessment year as existed for the 1998 assessment year;
- (4) the dwelling occupied by the owner is located in this state and is within 50 miles of one of the parcels of agricultural land that is owned by the taxpayer; and
- (5) the owner notifies the county assessor that the relocation was due to a March 29, 1998, tornado, and the owner furnishes the assessor any information deemed necessary by the assessor in verifying the change in homestead dwelling. For taxes payable in 1999, the owner must notify the assessor by December 1, 1998. Further notifications to the assessor are not required if the property continues to meet all the requirements in this paragraph and any dwellings on the agricultural land remain uninhabited.
- (g) Agricultural property consisting of at least 40 acres of a family farm corporation, joint family farm venture, family farm limited liability company, or partnership operating a family farm as described under subdivision 8 shall be classified homestead, to the same extent as other agricultural homestead property, if all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) a shareholder, member, or partner of that entity is actively farming the agricultural property;
- (2) that shareholder, member, or partner who is actively farming the agricultural property is a Minnesota resident;
- (3) neither that shareholder, member, or partner, nor the spouse of that shareholder, member, or partner claims another agricultural homestead in Minnesota; and
- (4) that shareholder, member, or partner does not live farther than four townships or cities, or a combination of four townships or cities, from the agricultural property.

Homestead treatment applies under this paragraph for property leased to a family farm corporation, joint farm venture, limited liability company, or partnership operating a family farm if legal title to the property is in the name of an individual who is a member, shareholder, or partner in the entity.

[For text of subds 17 to 21, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 27-31

#### 273.13 CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY.

[For text of subds 1 to 21b, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 22. Class 1. (a) Except as provided in subdivision 23 and in paragraphs (b) and (c), real estate which is residential and used for homestead purposes is class 1a. The market value of class 1a property must be determined based upon the value of the house, garage, and land.

The first \$500,000 of market value of class 1a property has a net class rate of one percent of its market value; and the market value of class 1a property that exceeds \$500,000 has a class rate of 1.25 percent of its market value.

- (b) Class 1b property includes homestead real estate or homestead manufactured homes used for the purposes of a homestead by
  - (1) any blind person, or the blind person and the blind person's spouse; or
  - (2) any person, hereinafter referred to as "veteran," who:
  - (i) served in the active military or naval service of the United States; and
- (ii) is entitled to compensation under the laws and regulations of the United States for permanent and total service-connected disability due to the loss, or loss of use, by reason of amputation, ankylosis, progressive muscular dystrophies, or paralysis, of both lower extremities, such as to preclude motion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair; and
- (iii) has acquired a special housing unit with special fixtures or movable facilities made necessary by the nature of the veteran's disability, or the surviving spouse of the deceased veteran for as long as the surviving spouse retains the special housing unit as a homestead; or
  - (3) any person who:
  - (i) is permanently and totally disabled and
- (ii) receives 90 percent or more of total household income, as defined in section 290A.03, subdivision 5, from
  - (A) aid from any state as a result of that disability; or
  - (B) supplemental security income for the disabled; or
  - (C) workers' compensation based on a finding of total and permanent disability; or
- (D) social security disability, including the amount of a disability insurance benefit which is converted to an old age insurance benefit and any subsequent cost of living increases; or
- (E) aid under the federal Railroad Retirement Act of 1937, United States Code Annotated, title 45, section 228b(a)5; or
- (F) a pension from any local government retirement fund located in the state of Minnesota as a result of that disability; or

- (G) pension, annuity, or other income paid as a result of that disability from a private pension or disability plan, including employer, employee, union, and insurance plans and
- (iii) has household income as defined in section 290A.03, subdivision 5, of \$50,000 or less; or
- (4) any person who is permanently and totally disabled and whose household income as defined in section 290A.03, subdivision 5, is 275 percent or less of the federal poverty level.

Property is classified and assessed under clause (4) only if the government agency or income-providing source certifies, upon the request of the homestead occupant, that the homestead occupant satisfies the disability requirements of this paragraph.

Property is classified and assessed pursuant to clause (1) only if the commissioner of economic security certifies to the assessor that the homestead occupant satisfies the requirements of this paragraph.

Permanently and totally disabled for the purpose of this subdivision means a condition which is permanent in nature and totally incapacitates the person from working at an occupation which brings the person an income. The first \$32,000 market value of class 1b property has a net class rate of .45 percent of its market value. The remaining market value of class 1b property has a class rate using the rates for class 1a or class 2a property, whichever is appropriate, of similar market value.

- (c) Class 1c property is commercial use real property that abuts a lakeshore line and is devoted to temporary and seasonal residential occupancy for recreational purposes but not devoted to commercial purposes for more than 250 days in the year preceding the year of assessment, and that includes a portion used as a homestead by the owner, which includes a dwelling occupied as a homestead by a shareholder of a corporation that owns the resort or a partner in a partnership that owns the resort, even if the title to the homestead is held by the corporation or partnership. For purposes of this clause, property is devoted to a commercial purpose on a specific day if any portion of the property, excluding the portion used exclusively as a homestead, is used for residential occupancy and a fee is charged for residential occupancy. The first \$500,000 of market value of class 1c property has a class rate of one percent, and the remaining market value of class 1c property has a class rate of one percent, with the following limitation: the area of the property must not exceed 100 feet of lakeshore footage for each cabin or campsite located on the property up to a total of 800 feet and 500 feet in depth, measured away from the lakeshore. If any portion of the class 1c resort property is classified as class 4c under subdivision 25, the entire property must meet the requirements of subdivision 25, paragraph (d), clause (1), to qualify for class 1c treatment under this paragraph.
  - (d) Class 1d property includes structures that meet all of the following criteria:
- (1) the structure is located on property that is classified as agricultural property under section 273.13, subdivision 23:
- (2) the structure is occupied exclusively by seasonal farm workers during the time when they work on that farm, and the occupants are not charged rent for the privilege of occupying the property, provided that use of the structure for storage of farm equipment and produce does not disqualify the property from classification under this paragraph;
- (3) the structure meets all applicable health and safety requirements for the appropriate season; and
- (4) the structure is not salable as residential property because it does not comply with local ordinances relating to location in relation to streets or roads.

The market value of class 1d property has the same class rates as class 1a property under paragraph (a).

Subd. 23. Class 2. (a) Class 2a property is agricultural land including any improvements that is homesteaded. The market value of the house and garage and immediately surrounding one acre of land has the same class rates as class 1a property

under subdivision 22. The value of the remaining land including improvements up to and including \$600,000 market value has a net class rate of 0.55 percent of market value. The remaining property over \$600,000 market value has a class rate of one percent of market value.

- (b) Class 2b property is (1) real estate, rural in character and used exclusively for growing trees for timber, lumber, and wood and wood products; (2) real estate that is not improved with a structure and is used exclusively for growing trees for timber, lumber, and wood and wood products, if the owner has participated or is participating in a cost-sharing program for afforestation, reforestation, or timber stand improvement on that particular property, administered or coordinated by the commissioner of natural resources; (3) real estate that is nonhomestead agricultural land; or (4) a landing area or public access area of a privately owned public use airport. Class 2b property has a net class rate of one percent of market value.
- (c) Agricultural land as used in this section means contiguous acreage of ten acres or more, used during the preceding year for agricultural purposes. "Agricultural purposes" as used in this section means the raising or cultivation of agricultural products or enrollment in the Reinvest in Minnesota program under sections 103F.501 to 103F.535 or the federal Conservation Reserve Program as contained in Public Law Number 99-198. Contiguous acreage on the same parcel, or contiguous acreage on an immediately adjacent parcel under the same ownership, may also qualify as agricultural land, but only if it is pasture, timber, waste, unusable wild land, or land included in state or federal farm programs. Agricultural classification for property shall be determined excluding the house, garage, and immediately surrounding one acre of land, and shall not be based upon the market value of any residential structures on the parcel or contiguous parcels under the same ownership.
- (d) Real estate, excluding the house, garage, and immediately surrounding one acre of land, of less than ten acres which is exclusively and intensively used for raising or cultivating agricultural products, shall be considered as agricultural land.

Land shall be classified as agricultural even if all or a portion of the agricultural use of that property is the leasing to, or use by another person for agricultural purposes.

Classification under this subdivision is not determinative for qualifying under section 273.111.

The property classification under this section supersedes, for property tax purposes only, any locally administered agricultural policies or land use restrictions that define minimum or maximum farm acreage.

- (e) The term "agricultural products" as used in this subdivision includes production for sale of:
- (1) livestock, dairy animals, dairy products, poultry and poultry products, furbearing animals, horticultural and nursery stock described in sections 18.44 to 18.61, fruit of all kinds, vegetables, forage, grains, bees, and apiary products by the owner;
- (2) fish bred for sale and consumption if the fish breeding occurs on land zoned for agricultural use;
- (3) the commercial boarding of horses if the boarding is done in conjunction with raising or cultivating agricultural products as defined in clause (1);
- (4) property which is owned and operated by nonprofit organizations used for equestrian activities, excluding racing;
- (5) game birds and waterfowl bred and raised for use on a shooting preserve licensed under section 97A.115;
  - (6) insects primarily bred to be used as food for animals;
- (7) trees, grown for sale as a crop, and not sold for timber, lumber, wood, or wood products; and
- (8) maple syrup taken from trees grown by a person licensed by the Minnesota department of agriculture under chapter 28A as a food processor.

- (f) If a parcel used for agricultural purposes is also used for commercial or industrial purposes, including but not limited to:
  - (1) wholesale and retail sales;
  - (2) processing of raw agricultural products or other goods;
  - (3) warehousing or storage of processed goods; and
- (4) office facilities for the support of the activities enumerated in clauses (1), (2), and (3),

the assessor shall classify the part of the parcel used for agricultural purposes as class 1b, 2a, or 2b, whichever is appropriate, and the remainder in the class appropriate to its use. The grading, sorting, and packaging of raw agricultural products for first sale is considered an agricultural purpose. A greenhouse or other building where horticultural or nursery products are grown that is also used for the conduct of retail sales must be classified as agricultural if it is primarily used for the growing of horticultural or nursery products from seed, cuttings, or roots and occasionally as a showroom for the retail sale of those products. Use of a greenhouse or building only for the display of already grown horticultural or nursery products does not qualify as an agricultural purpose.

The assessor shall determine and list separately on the records the market value of the homestead dwelling and the one acre of land on which that dwelling is located. If any farm buildings or structures are located on this homesteaded acre of land, their market value shall not be included in this separate determination.

- (g) To qualify for classification under paragraph (b), clause (4), a privately owned public use airport must be licensed as a public airport under section 360.018. For purposes of paragraph (b), clause (4), "landing area" means that part of a privately owned public use airport properly cleared, regularly maintained, and made available to the public for use by aircraft and includes runways, taxiways, aprons, and sites upon which are situated landing or navigational aids. A landing area also includes land underlying both the primary surface and the approach surfaces that comply with all of the following:
- (i) the land is properly cleared and regularly maintained for the primary purposes of the landing, taking off, and taxing of aircraft; but that portion of the land that contains facilities for servicing, repair, or maintenance of aircraft is not included as a landing area;
  - (ii) the land is part of the airport property; and
  - (iii) the land is not used for commercial or residential purposes.

The land contained in a landing area under paragraph (b), clause (4), must be described and certified by the commissioner of transportation. The certification is effective until it is modified, or until the airport or landing area no longer meets the requirements of paragraph (b), clause (4). For purposes of paragraph (b), clause (4), "public access area" means property used as an aircraft parking ramp, apron, or storage hangar, or an arrival and departure building in connection with the airport.

- Subd. 24. Class 3. (a) Commercial and industrial property and utility real and personal property is class 3a.
- (1) Except as otherwise provided, each parcel of commercial, industrial, or utility real property has a class rate of 1.5 percent of the first tier of market value, and 2.0 percent of the remaining market value. In the case of contiguous parcels of property owned by the same person or entity, only the value equal to the first-tier value of the contiguous parcels qualifies for the reduced class rate, except that contiguous parcels owned by the same person or entity shall be eligible for the first-tier value class rate on each separate business operated by the owner of the property, provided the business is housed in a separate structure. For the purposes of this subdivision, the first tier means the first \$150,000 of market value. Real property owned in fee by a utility for transmission line right-of-way shall be classified at the class rate for the higher tier.

For purposes of this subdivision, parcels are considered to be contiguous even if they are separated from each other by a road, street, waterway, or other similar intervening type of property. Connections between parcels that consist of power lines or pipelines do not cause the parcels to be contiguous. Property owners who have contiguous parcels of property that constitute separate businesses that may qualify for the first-tier class rate shall notify the assessor by July 1, for treatment beginning in the following taxes payable year.

- (2) All railroad operating property and all property that is: (i) part of an electric generation, transmission, or distribution system; or (ii) part of a pipeline system transporting or distributing water, gas, crude oil, or petroleum products; and (iii) not described in clause (3), has a class rate as provided under clause (1) for the first tier of market value and the remaining market value. In the case of multiple parcels in one county that are owned by one person or entity, only one first tier amount is eligible for the reduced rate.
- (3) The entire market value of personal property that is: (i) tools, implements, and machinery of an electric generation, transmission, or distribution system; (ii) tools, implements, and machinery of a pipeline system transporting or distributing water, gas, crude oil, or petroleum products; or (iii) the mains and pipes used in the distribution of steam or hot or chilled water for heating or cooling buildings, has a class rate as provided under clause (1) for the remaining market value in excess of the first tier.
- (b) Employment property defined in section 469.166, during the period provided in section 469.170, shall constitute class 3b. The class rates for class 3b property are determined under paragraph (a).

Subd. 24a. [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 96]

- Subd. 25. Class 4. (a) Class 4a is residential real estate containing four or more units and used or held for use by the owner or by the tenants or lessees of the owner as a residence for rental periods of 30 days or more. Class 4a also includes hospitals licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.56, other than hospitals exempt under section 272.02, and contiguous property used for hospital purposes, without regard to whether the property has been platted or subdivided. The market value of class 4a property has a class rate of 1.8 percent for taxes payable in 2002, 1.5 percent for taxes payable in 2003, and 1.25 percent for taxes payable in 2004 and thereafter, except that class 4a property consisting of a structure for which construction commenced after June 30, 2001, has a class rate of 1.25 percent of market value for taxes payable in 2003 and subsequent years.
  - (b) Class 4b includes:
- (1) residential real estate containing less than four units that does not qualify as class 4bb, other than seasonal residential, and recreational;
  - (2) manufactured homes not classified under any other provision;
- (3) a dwelling, garage, and surrounding one acre of property on a nonhomestead farm classified under subdivision 23, paragraph (b) containing two or three units;
- (4) unimproved property that is classified residential as determined under subdivision 33.

The market value of class 4b property has a class rate of 1.5 percent for taxes payable in 2002, and 1.25 percent for taxes payable in 2003 and thereafter.

- (c) Class 4bb includes:
- (1) nonhomestead residential real estate containing one unit, other than seasonal residential, and recreational; and
- (2) a single family dwelling, garage, and surrounding one acre of property on a nonhomestead farm classified under subdivision 23, paragraph (b).

Class 4bb property has the same class rates as class 1a property under subdivision 22.

Property that has been classified as seasonal recreational residential property at any time during which it has been owned by the current owner or spouse of the current owner does not qualify for class 4bb.

- (d) Class 4c property includes:
- (1) except as provided in subdivision 22, paragraph (c), real property devoted to temporary and seasonal residential occupancy for recreation purposes, including real property devoted to temporary and seasonal residential occupancy for recreation purposes and not devoted to commercial purposes for more than 250 days in the year preceding the year of assessment. For purposes of this clause, property is devoted to a commercial purpose on a specific day if any portion of the property is used for residential occupancy, and a fee is charged for residential occupancy. In order for a property to be classified as class 4c, seasonal recreational residential for commercial purposes, at least 40 percent of the annual gross lodging receipts related to the property must be from business conducted during 90 consecutive days and either (i) at least 60 percent of all paid bookings by lodging guests during the year must be for periods of at least two consecutive nights; or (ii) at least 20 percent of the annual gross receipts must be from charges for rental of fish houses, boats and motors, snowmobiles, downhill or cross-country ski equipment, or charges for marina services, launch services, and guide services, or the sale of bait and fishing tackle. For purposes of this determination, a paid booking of five or more nights shall be counted as two bookings. Class 4c also includes commercial use real property used exclusively for recreational purposes in conjunction with class 4c property devoted to temporary and seasonal residential occupancy for recreational purposes, up to a total of two acres, provided the property is not devoted to commercial recreational use for more than 250 days in the year preceding the year of assessment and is located within two miles of the class 4c property with which it is used. Class 4c property classified in this clause also includes the remainder of class 1c resorts provided that the entire property including that portion of the property classified as class 1c also meets the requirements for class 4c under this clause; otherwise the entire property is classified as class 3. Owners of real property devoted to temporary and seasonal residential occupancy for recreation purposes and all or a portion of which was devoted to commercial purposes for not more than 250 days in the year preceding the year of assessment desiring classification as class 1c or 4c, must submit a declaration to the assessor designating the cabins or units occupied for 250 days or less in the year preceding the year of assessment by January 15 of the assessment year. Those cabins or units and a proportionate share of the land on which they are located will be designated class 1c or 4c as otherwise provided. The remainder of the cabins or units and a proportionate share of the land on which they are located will be designated as class 3a. The owner of property desiring designation as class 1c or 4c property must provide guest registers or other records demonstrating that the units for which class 1c or 4c designation is sought were not occupied for more than 250 days in the year preceding the assessment if so requested. The portion of a property operated as a (1) restaurant, (2) bar, (3) gift shop, and (4) other nonresidential facility operated on a commercial basis not directly related to temporary and seasonal residential occupancy for recreation purposes shall not qualify for class 1c or 4c;
  - (2) qualified property used as a golf course if:
- (i) it is open to the public on a daily fee basis. It may charge membership fees or dues, but a membership fee may not be required in order to use the property for golfing, and its green fees for golfing must be comparable to green fees typically charged by municipal courses; and
  - (ii) it meets the requirements of section 273.112, subdivision 3, paragraph (d).

A structure used as a clubhouse, restaurant, or place of refreshment in conjunction with the golf course is classified as class 3a property;

(3) real property up to a maximum of one acre of land owned by a nonprofit community service oriented organization; provided that the property is not used for a revenue-producing activity for more than six days in the calendar year preceding the year of assessment and the property is not used for residential purposes on either a temporary or permanent basis. For purposes of this clause, a "nonprofit community service oriented organization" means any corporation, society, association, foundation,

or institution organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious, fraternal, civic, or educational purposes, and which is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3), (10), or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1990. For purposes of this clause, "revenue-producing activities" shall include but not be limited to property or that portion of the property that is used as an on-sale intoxicating liquor or 3.2 percent malt liquor establishment licensed under chapter 340A, a restaurant open to the public, bowling alley, a retail store, gambling conducted by organizations licensed under chapter 349, an insurance business, or office or other space leased or rented to a lessee who conducts a for-profit enterprise on the premises. Any portion of the property which is used for revenue-producing activities for more than six days in the calendar year preceding the year of assessment shall be assessed as class 3a. The use of the property for social events open exclusively to members and their guests for periods of less than 24 hours, when an admission is not charged nor any revenues are received by the organization shall not be considered a revenue-producing activity;

- (4) post-secondary student housing of not more than one acre of land that is owned by a nonprofit corporation organized under chapter 317A and is used exclusively by a student cooperative, sorority, or fraternity for on-campus housing or housing located within two miles of the border of a college campus;
  - (5) manufactured home parks as defined in section 327.14, subdivision 3;
- (6) real property that is actively and exclusively devoted to indoor fitness, health, social, recreational, and related uses, is owned and operated by a not-for-profit corporation, and is located within the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2; and
- (7) a leased or privately owned noncommercial aircraft storage hangar not exempt under section 272.01, subdivision 2, and the land on which it is located, provided that:
- (i) the land is on an airport owned or operated by a city, town, county, metropolitan airports commission, or group thereof; and
- (ii) the land lease, or any ordinance or signed agreement restricting the use of the leased premise, prohibits commercial activity performed at the hangar.

If a hangar classified under this clause is sold after June 30, 2000, a bill of sale must be filed by the new owner with the assessor of the county where the property is located within 60 days of the sale.

Class 4c property has a class rate of 1.5 percent of market value, except that (i) each parcel of seasonal residential recreational property not used for commercial purposes has the same class rates as class 4bb property, (ii) manufactured home parks assessed under clause (5) have the same class rate as class 4b property, (iii) commercial-use seasonal residential recreational property has a class rate of one percent for the first \$500,000 of market value, which includes any market value receiving the one percent rate under subdivision 22, and 1.25 percent for the remaining market value, (iv) the market value of property described in clause (4) has a class rate of one percent, and (v) the market value of property described in clauses (2) and (6) has a class rate of 1.25 percent.

(e) Class 4d property is qualifying low-income rental housing certified to the assessor by the housing finance agency under sections 273.126 and 462A.071. Class 4d includes land in proportion to the total market value of the building that is qualifying low-income rental housing. For all properties qualifying as class 4d, the market value determined by the assessor must be based on the normal approach to value using normal unrestricted rents.

Class 4d property has a class rate of 0.9 percent for taxes payable in 2002, and one percent for taxes payable in 2003 and 1.25 percent for taxes payable in 2004 and thereafter.

[For text of subd 25a, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 31. Class 5. Class 5 property includes:

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(1) unmined iron ore and low-grade iron-bearing formations as defined in section 273.14; and

(2) all other property not otherwise classified.

Class 5 property has a class rate of 2.0 percent of market value.

[For text of subd 33, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 32-36

## 273.134 TACONITE AND IRON ORE AREAS; TAX RELIEF AREA; DEFINITIONS.

(a) For purposes of this section and section 273.135, "municipality" means any city, however organized, or town, and the applicable assessment date is the date as of which property is listed and assessed for the tax in question.

For the purposes of section 273.135, "tax relief area" means the geographic area contained within the boundaries of a school district on January 2, 2000, which contains a municipality which meets the following qualifications:

- (1) it is a municipality in which the assessed valuation of unmined iron ore on May 1, 1941, was not less than 40 percent of the assessed valuation of all real property; or
- (2) it is a municipality in which, on January 1, 1977 or the applicable assessment date, there is a taconite concentrating plant or where taconite is mined or quarried or where there is located an electric generating plant which qualifies as a taconite facility.

For purposes of this paragraph, a "tax relief area" does not include a school district whose boundaries are more than 20 miles from a taconite mine or plant or in which the assessed valuation of unmined iron ore on May 1, 1941, was less than 40 percent of the assessed valuation of all real property.

- (b) For purposes of section 273.1391, subdivision 2, paragraph (c), and chapter 298, "tax relief area" means the geographic area contained within the boundaries of a school district which contains a municipality that meets the following qualifications:
- (1) it is a municipality in which the assessed valuation of unmined iron ore on May 1, 1941, was not less than 40 percent of the assessed valuation of all real property; or
- (2) it is a municipality in which, on January 1, 1977, or the applicable assessment date, there is a taconite concentrating plant or where taconite is mined or quarried or where there is located an electric generating plant which qualifies as a taconite facility.

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 6 s 4

#### 273.135 HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.

Subdivision 1. The property tax to be paid in respect to property taxable within a tax relief area as defined in section 273.134, paragraph (a), on homestead property, as otherwise determined by law and regardless of the market value of the property, for all purposes shall be reduced in the amount prescribed by subdivision 2, subject to the limitations contained therein.

Subd. 2. The amount of the reduction authorized by subdivision 1 shall be:

- (a) In the case of property located within a tax relief area as defined under section 273.134, paragraph (a), that is within the boundaries of a municipality which meets the qualifications prescribed in section 273.134, paragraph (a), 66 percent of the tax, provided that the reduction shall not exceed the maximum amounts specified in paragraph (c).
- (b) In the case of property located within the boundaries of a school district which qualifies as a tax relief area under section 273.134, paragraph (a), but which is outside the boundaries of a municipality which meets the qualifications prescribed in section 273.134, paragraph (a), 57 percent of the tax, provided that the reduction shall not exceed the maximum amounts specified in paragraph (c).
- (c) The maximum reduction of the tax is \$315.10 on property described in paragraph (a) and \$289.80 on property described in paragraph (b).

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[For text of subds 3 and 5, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 6 s 5.6

# 273.136 TACONITE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACCOUNT; REPLACEMENT OF REVENUE.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 2. The commissioner of revenue shall determine, not later than April 1 of each year, the amount of reduction resulting from section 273.135 in each county containing a tax relief area as defined by section 273.134, paragraph (b), basing determinations on a review of abstracts of tax lists submitted by the county auditors pursuant to section 275.29. The commissioner may make changes in the abstracts of tax lists as deemed necessary. The commissioner of revenue, after such review, shall submit to the St. Louis county auditor, on or before April 15, the amount of the first half payment payable hereunder and on or before September 15 the amount of the second half payment.

[For text of subds 3 and 4, see M.S.2000]

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 6 s 7

**273.1382** [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 96]

#### 273.1384 MARKET VALUE HOMESTEAD CREDITS.

Subdivision 1. Residential homestead market value credit. Each county auditor shall determine a homestead credit for each class 1a, 1b, 1c, and 2a homestead property within the county equal to 0.4 percent of the market value of the property. The amount of homestead credit for a homestead may not exceed \$304 and is reduced by .09 percent of the market value in excess of \$76,000. In the case of an agricultural or resort homestead, only the market value of the house, garage, and immediately surrounding one acre of land is eligible in determining the property's homestead credit.

- Subd. 2. Agricultural homestead market value credit. Property classified as class 2a agricultural homestead is eligible for an agricultural credit. The credit is equal to 0.2 percent of the first \$115,000 of the property's market value. The credit under this subdivision is limited to \$230 for each homestead.
- Subd. 3. Credit reimbursements. The county auditor shall determine the tax reductions allowed under this section within the county for each taxes payable year and shall certify that amount to the commissioner of revenue as a part of the abstracts of tax lists submitted by the county auditors under section 275.29. Any prior year adjustments shall also be certified on the abstracts of tax lists. The commissioner shall review the certifications for accuracy, and may make such changes as are deemed necessary, or return the certification to the county auditor for correction. The credits under this section must be used to proportionately reduce the net tax capacity-based property tax payable to each local taxing jurisdiction as provided in section 273.1393.
- Subd. 4. **Payment.** (a) The commissioner of revenue shall reimburse each local taxing jurisdiction, other than school districts, for the tax reductions granted under this section in two equal installments on October 31 and December 26 of the taxes payable year for which the reductions are granted, including in each payment the prior year adjustments certified on the abstracts for that taxes payable year. The reimbursements related to tax increments shall be issued in one installment each year on December 26.
- (b) The commissioner of revenue shall certify the total of the tax reductions granted under this section for each taxes payable year within each school district to the commissioner of the department of children, families, and learning and the commissioner of children, families, and learning shall pay the reimbursement amounts to each school district as provided in section 273.1392.
- Subd. 5. Appropriation. An amount sufficient to make the payments required by this section to taxing jurisdictions other than school districts is annually appropriated

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from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue. An amount sufficient to make the payments required by this section for school districts is annually appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of children, families, and learning.

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 37

#### 273.1391 SUPPLEMENTARY HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 2. The amount of the reduction authorized by subdivision 1 shall be:

- (a) In the case of property located within a school district which does not meet the qualifications of section 273.134 as a tax relief area, but which is located in a county with a population of less than 100,000 in which taconite is mined or quarried and wherein a school district is located which does meet the qualifications of a tax relief area, and provided that at least 90 percent of the area of the school district which does not meet the qualifications of section 273.134 lies within such county, 57 percent of the tax on qualified property located in the school district that does not meet the qualifications of section 273.134, provided that the amount of said reduction shall not exceed the maximum amounts specified in paragraph (d). The reduction provided by this paragraph shall only be applicable to property located within the boundaries of the county described therein.
- (b) In the case of property located within a school district which does not meet the qualifications of section 273.134 as a tax relief area, but which is located in a school district in a county containing a city of the first class and a qualifying municipality, but not in a school district containing a city of the first class or adjacent to a school district containing a city of the first class unless the school district so adjacent contains a qualifying municipality, 57 percent of the tax, but not to exceed the maximums specified in paragraph (d).
- (c) In the case of property located within the boundaries of a municipality that meets the qualifications in section 273.134, paragraph (b), but not the qualifications in section 273.134, paragraph (a), 66 percent of the tax, provided that the reduction shall not exceed S315.10. In the case of property located within the boundaries of a school district which qualifies as a tax relief area under section 273.134, paragraph (b), but does not qualify as a tax relief area under section 273.134, paragraph (a), but which is outside the boundaries of a municipality which meets the qualifications of the preceding sentence, 57 percent of the tax, provided that the reduction shall not exceed the maximum amounts specified in paragraph (d).
- (d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the maximum reduction of the tax is \$289.80.
- Subd. 3. Not later than December 1, each county auditor having jurisdiction over one or more tax relief areas defined in subdivision 2 shall certify to the commissioner of revenue an estimate of the total amount of the reduction, determined under subdivision 2, in taxes payable the next succeeding year with respect to all tax relief areas in the auditor's county. The commissioner shall make payments to the county at the times provided in section 477A.015. The county treasurer shall distribute as part of the May and October settlements the funds received from the commissioner.

[For text of subds 4 and 5, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 6 s 8,9

#### 273.1392 PAYMENT; SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

The amounts of conservation tax credits under section 273.119; disaster or emergency reimbursement under section 273.123; homestead and agricultural credits under section 273.1384; aids and credits under section 273.1398; wetlands reimbursement under section 275.295; enterprise zone property credit payments under section 469.171; and metropolitan agricultural preserve reduction under section 473H.10 for school districts, shall be certified to the department of children, families, and learning

by the department of revenue. The amounts so certified shall be paid according to section 127A.45, subdivisions 9 and 13.

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 38

#### 273.1393 COMPUTATION OF NET PROPERTY TAXES.

Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary, "net" property taxes are determined by subtracting the credits in the order listed from the gross tax:

- (1) disaster credit as provided in section 273.123;
- (2) powerline credit as provided in section 273.42;
- (3) agricultural preserves credit as provided in section 473H.10;
- (4) enterprise zone credit as provided in section 469.171;
- (5) disparity reduction credit;
- (6) conservation tax credit as provided in section 273.119;
- (7) homestead and agricultural credits as provided in section 273.1384;
- (8) taconite homestead credit as provided in section 273.135; and
- (9) supplemental homestead credit as provided in section 273.1391.

The combination of all property tax credits must not exceed the gross tax amount. **History:** *ISp2001 c 5 art 3 s 39* 

# 273.1398 HOMESTEAD AND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT AND DISPARITY REDUCTION AID.

### [For text of subds 1 to 2d, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 2c. Homestead and agricultural aid for cities, towns, and special taxing districts. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 2, the amount of homestead and agricultural credit aid for a statutory or home rule charter city, town, school district, or special taxing district for aid payable in calendar year 2002 and thereafter is zero.

#### [For text of subds 3 to 4, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 4a. Aid offset for court costs. (a) By July 15 of the year preceding the year in which the state assumes the cost of court administration in the judicial district as specified under section 480.183, the supreme court shall determine and certify to the commissioner of revenue for each county the county's share of the costs assumed in the judicial districts specified under section 480.183, subdivision 1, during the succeeding fiscal year.

- (b) The amount certified in paragraph (a) shall be equal to the following:
- (1) 103 percent of the required court administration expenditures as defined under section 480.183, subdivision 3, for calendar year 2003, as determined under subdivision 4b, paragraph (a); plus
- (2) an adjustment for any cumulative percentage increase in salary expenditures as defined under section 480.183, subdivision 2, in excess of a maintenance of effort increase of six percent; less
- (3) an amount equal to the county's share of transferred fines collected by the district courts in the county during the calendar year preceding certification.

The court and the county may, if both parties agree, negotiate and certify an amount higher than the amount calculated under this paragraph.

- (c) For purposes of this subdivision, the adjustment in paragraph (b), clause (2), shall be equal to:
- (1) the sum of the court administration expenditures as defined under section 480.183, subdivision 3, required under subdivision 4b, paragraph (a), plus the temporary aid payment under subdivision 4c; multiplied by

- (2) the difference between (i) the cumulative percentage increase in actual and anticipated salary settlements for court employees from July 1, 2001, until the date of the court transfer and (ii) the percentage specified in subdivision 4b, paragraph (a).
- (d) Payments to a county under subdivision 2 or section 273.166 for the calendar year in which the state assumes the cost of court administration as defined under section 480.183, subdivision 3, in the judicial district must be permanently reduced by an amount equal to 75 percent of the net cost to the state for assumption of district court costs as certified in paragraph (a).
- (e) Payments to a county under subdivision 2 or section 273.166 for the calendar year after the calendar year in which the state assumes the cost of court administration as defined under section 480.183, subdivision 3, in the judicial district must be permanently reduced by an amount equal to 25 percent of the net cost to the state for assumption of district court costs as certified in paragraph (a), provided that this amount must be increased or decreased by an amount equal to the positive or negative difference between the amount of fee and fine revenue certified under paragraph (b), clause (3), and the actual amount of fee and fine revenue of the county for the calendar year when certification takes place.
- (f) Payments to a county under subdivision 2 for calendar year 2001 are permanently increased by an amount equal to 7.5 percent of the county's share of transferred fines collected by the district courts in the county during calendar year 1998, as determined under paragraph (a). If the amount determined in paragraph (a) exceeds the amount of aid a county is scheduled to be paid under subdivision 2 in 2000, then the county shall not receive an aid increase under this paragraph.
- (g) Payments to a county under subdivision 2 or section 273.166, for the cost of mandated services, as defined in section 480.183, subdivision 4, in the judicial district, must be permanently reduced in 2002 by an amount equal to the cost to the state for assumption of mandated court services as defined in section 480.183, subdivision 4. The supreme court shall determine the amount for each county and certify it to the commissioner of revenue by July 15, 2001.
- Subd. 4b. Court expenditures; maintenance of effort. (a) Until the costs of court administration as defined under section 480.183, subdivision 3, in a county have been transferred to the state, each county in a judicial district transferring court administration costs to state funding after July 1, 2001, shall budget for the funding of these costs an amount at least equal to the certified budget amount for calendar year 2001, increased by six percent for each year from 2001 to 2003 and by eight percent from 2004 to the year of the transfer. The county shall budget, fund, and authorize expenditures not less than the amount calculated under this paragraph plus the temporary aid amount under subdivision 4c for maintenance of effort of administrative costs.
- (b) By July 15, 2001, the court shall certify to each county in the judicial district its cost of court administration as defined under section 480.183, subdivision 3, based on 2001 budgets. In making that determination, the court shall exclude the budget costs of the county for the following categories:
  - (1) rent;
  - (2) examiner of titles;
  - (3) civil court appointed attorneys for civil matters;
  - (4) hospitalization costs; and
  - (5) cost of maintaining vital statistics.

The amount of funding provided by a county for courts that is increased by the maintenance of effort requirement may not be used by a county to pay the costs described in clauses (1) to (5).

Subd. 4c. **Temporary aid; court administration costs.** For calendar years 2004 and 2005, each county in a judicial district that has not been transferred to the state by January 1 of that year shall receive additional homestead and agricultural credit aid. This amount is in addition to the amount calculated under subdivision 2 and must not be included in the definition of homestead and agricultural credit base under subdivi-

sion 1, paragraph (j). The amount of additional aid is equal to the difference between (1) the amount budgeted for court administration costs in 2001 as determined under subdivision 4b, paragraph (c), multiplied by the maintenance of effort percent for the calendar year as determined under subdivision 4b, paragraph (d), and (2) the amount calculated under subdivision 4b, paragraph (a), for calendar year 2003. This additional aid must be used only to fund court administration expenditures as defined in section 480.183, subdivision 3. This amount must be added to the state court's base budget in the year when the court in that judicial district in which the county is located is transferred to the state.

Subd. 4d. Aid offset for out-of-home placement costs. For aid payable in 2003, each county's aid under subdivision 2 shall be permanently reduced by an amount equal to the county's 2003 reimbursement for nonfederal expenditures for out-of-home placements, as provided in section 245.775, provided that payments will be made under section 477A.0123 in calendar year 2003. The counties shall provide all information requested by the commissioner of human services necessary to allow the commissioner to certify the previous three years' average nonfederal costs to the commissioner of revenue by July 15, 2003. The aid reduction under this subdivision must be made prior to any aid reductions for the state takeover of courts contained in Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 5, article 5.

[For text of subds 6 and 8, see M.S.2000]

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 40; art 5 s 5-8

**273.1399** [Repealed, 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 96; art 15 s 41]

# 273.166 MANUFACTURED HOME HOMESTEAD AND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT AID.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2000]

- Subd. 2. Manufactured home homestead and agricultural credit aid. In calendar year 2002, and each calendar year thereafter, manufactured home homestead and agricultural credit aid shall be paid to each county under this section in an amount equal to the county's manufactured home homestead and agricultural credit aid determined under this subdivision for the preceding aid payable year times the growth adjustment factor for the county. Payment will not be made to any county that has ceased to levy a property tax.
- Subd. 3. Aid calculation. The commissioner of revenue shall make the calculation required in subdivision 2 and annually pay manufactured home homestead and agricultural credit aid to counties at the times provided in section 473H.10 for local governments other than school districts.
- Subd. 5. **Appropriation.** There is annually appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue a sum sufficient to pay the aids provided under this section to counties.

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 41-43

NOTE: The amendment to subdivision 5 by Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 5, article 3, section 43, is effective for fiscal year 2003 and thereafter. Laws 2001, First Special Session chapter 5, article 3, section 43, the effective date.

# 273.42 RATE OF TAX; ENTRY AND CERTIFICATION; CREDIT ON PAYMENT; PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.2000]

Subd. 3. State tax on transmission and distribution lines. Notwithstanding section 273.425, the entire tax capacity of property taxed at the average local tax rate under subdivision 1 is subject to the state tax rate provided in section 275.025. Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 and 2, the entire proceeds of the state tax levy for each such property must be distributed to the state under the procedures provided in chapter 276. No portion of the proceeds from the state levy on such property is distributed within the county under subdivision 1 or 2.

**History:** 1Sp2001 c 5 art 3 s 44