

CHAPTER 475

PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS

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475.53 LIMIT ON NET DEBT.

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

Subd. 4. **School districts.** Except as otherwise provided by law, no school district shall be subject to a net debt in excess of 15 percent of the actual market value of all taxable property situated within its corporate limits, as computed in accordance with this subdivision. The county auditor of each county containing taxable real or personal property situated within any school district shall certify to the district upon request the market value of all such property. Whenever the commissioner of revenue, in accordance with section 127A.48, subdivisions 1 to 6, has determined that the net tax capacity of any district furnished by county auditors is not based upon the market value of taxable property in the district; the commissioner of revenue shall certify to the district upon request the ratio most recently ascertained to exist between such value and the actual market value of property within the district. The actual market value of property within a district, on which its debt limit under this subdivision is based, is (a) the value certified by the county auditors, or (b) this value divided by the ratio certified by the commissioner of revenue, whichever results in a higher value.

[For text of subds 5 to 8, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 5 art 2 s 26

475.54 MATURITIES; REDEMPTION.

Subdivision 1. **In installments; exception; annual limit.** Except as provided in subdivision 3, 5a, 15, or 17, or as expressly authorized in another law, all obligations of each issue shall mature or be subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption in installments, the first not later than three years and the last not later than 30 years from the date of the issue; or 40 years or the useful life of the asset, whichever is less, for municipal water and wastewater treatment systems and essential community facilities financed or guaranteed by the United States Department of Agriculture. No amount of principal of the issue payable in any calendar year shall exceed an amount equal to the smallest amount payable in any preceding calendar year ending three years or more after the issue date multiplied:

- (1) by five, in the case of obligations maturing not later than 25 years from the date of issue; and
- (2) by six, in the case of obligations maturing 25 years or later from the date of issue.

[For text of subds 2 to 17, see M.S.2000]

History: 2001 c 214 s 42

475.58 OBLIGATIONS; ELECTIONS TO DETERMINE ISSUE.

Subdivision 1. **Approval by electors; exceptions.** Obligations authorized by law or charter may be issued by any municipality upon obtaining the approval of a majority of the electors voting on the question of issuing the obligations, but an election shall not be required to authorize obligations issued:

- (1) to pay any unpaid judgment against the municipality;
- (2) for refunding obligations;

(3) for an improvement or improvement program, which obligation is payable wholly or partly from the proceeds of special assessments levied upon property specially benefited by the improvement or by an improvement within the improvement program, or of taxes levied upon the increased value of property within a district for the development of which the improvement is undertaken, including obligations which are the general obligations of the municipality, if the municipality is entitled to reimbursement in whole or in part from the proceeds of such special assessments or taxes and not less than 20 percent of the cost of the improvement or the improvement program is to be assessed against benefited property or is to be paid from the proceeds of federal grant funds or a combination thereof, or is estimated to be received from such taxes within the district;

(4) payable wholly from the income of revenue producing conveniences;

(5) under the provisions of a home rule charter which permits the issuance of obligations of the municipality without election;

(6) under the provisions of a law which permits the issuance of obligations of a municipality without an election;

(7) to fund pension or retirement fund liabilities pursuant to section 475.52, subdivision 6;

(8) under a capital improvement plan under section 373.40; and

(9) under sections 469.1813 to 469.1815 (property tax abatement authority bonds), if the proceeds of the bonds are not used for a purpose prohibited under section 469.176, subdivision 4g, paragraph (b).

[For text of subds 1a to 4, see M.S.2000]

History: 2001 c 214 s 43; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 15 s 28

475.59 MANNER OF SUBMISSION; NOTICE.

When the governing body of a municipality resolves to issue bonds for any purpose requiring the approval of the electors, it shall provide for submission of the proposition of their issuance at a general or special election or town or school district meeting. Notice of such election or meeting shall be given in the manner required by law and shall state the maximum amount and the purpose of the proposed issue. In any school district, the school board or board of education may, according to its judgment and discretion, submit as a single ballot question or as two or more separate questions in the notice of election and ballots the proposition of their issuance for any one or more of the following, stated conjunctively or in the alternative: acquisition or enlargement of sites, acquisition, betterment, erection, furnishing, equipping of one or more new schoolhouses, remodeling, repairing, improving, adding to, betterment, furnishing, equipping of one or more existing schoolhouses. In any city, town, or county, the governing body may, according to its judgment and discretion, submit as a single ballot question or as two or more separate questions in the notice of election and ballots the proposition of their issuance, stated conjunctively or in the alternative, for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of any facilities at one or more locations.

History: 2001 c 214 s 44

475.61 TAX LEVIES.

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

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

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, "excess debt redemption fund balance" means the greater of zero or the balance in the district's debt redemption fund as of June 30 of the fiscal year ending in the year before the year the levy is certified, minus any debt redemption fund balance attributable to refunding of existing bonds, minus the amount of the levy reduction for the current year and the prior year under paragraphs (e) and (f), minus five percent of the district's required debt service levy for the next year.

(c) By July 15 each year, a district shall report to the commissioner of children, families, and learning the amount of the districts' debt redemption fund balance as of June 30 of the prior year attributable to refunding of existing bonds.

(d) By August 15 each year, the commissioner shall determine the excess debt redemption fund balance for each school district, and shall certify the amount of the excess balance to the school district superintendent.

(e) In each year when a district has an excess debt redemption fund balance, the commissioner shall report the amount of the excess to the county auditor and the auditor shall reduce the tax levy otherwise to be included in the rolls next prepared by the amount certified.

(f) The school board may, with the approval of the commissioner, retain all or part of the excess balance if it is necessary to ensure the prompt and full payment of its obligations and any call premium on its obligations, will be used for redemption of its obligations in accordance with their terms, or to level out the debt service tax rate, excluding the debt excess adjustment, for its obligations over the next two years. A school district requesting authority to retain all or part of the excess balance shall provide written documentation to the commissioner describing the rationale for its request by September 15 including the issuance of new obligations within the next year or the refunding of existing obligations. A school district that retains an excess may request to transfer the excess to its operating capital account in the general fund under section 123B.80. The school board may, with the approval of the commissioner, specify a tax levy in a higher amount if necessary because of anticipated tax delinquency or for cash flow needs to meet the required payments from the debt redemption fund.

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

[For text of subs 4 to 6, see M.S.2000]

History: 1Sp2001 c 6 art 5 s 9