

CHAPTER 297D

MARIJUANA AND CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCE TAXATION

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|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 297D.01 | Definitions. | 297D.085 | Credit for previously paid taxes. |
| 297D.02 | Administration. | 297D.09 | Penalties: criminal provisions. |
| 297D.03 | Rules. | 297D.10 | Stamp price. |
| 297D.04 | Tax payment required for possession. | 297D.11 | Payment due. |
| 297D.05 | No immunity. | 297D.12 | All assessments are jeopardy. |
| 297D.06 | Pharmaceuticals. | 297D.13 | Confidential nature of information. |
| 297D.07 | Measurement. | 297D.14 | Investigatory powers. |
| 297D.08 | Tax rate. | | |

297D.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. "Marijuana" means any marijuana, whether real or counterfeit, as defined in section 152.01, subdivision 9, that is held, possessed, transported, transferred, sold, or offered to be sold in violation of Minnesota laws.

Subd. 2. "Controlled substance" means any drug or substance, whether real or counterfeit, as defined in section 152.01, subdivision 4, that is held, possessed, transported, transferred, sold, or offered to be sold in violation of Minnesota laws. "Controlled substance" does not include marijuana.

Subd. 3. "Tax obligor" or "obligor" means a person who in violation of Minnesota law manufactures, produces, ships, transports, or imports into Minnesota or in any manner acquires or possesses more than 42-1/2 grams of marijuana, or seven or more grams of any controlled substance, or ten or more dosage units of any controlled substance which is not sold by weight. A quantity of marijuana or other controlled substance is measured by the weight of the substance whether pure or impure or dilute, or by dosage units when the substance is not sold by weight, in the tax obligor's possession. A quantity of a controlled substance is dilute if it consists of a detectable quantity of pure controlled substance and any excipients or fillers.

Subd. 4. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of revenue.

History: 1986 c 470 s 4; 1987 c 330 s 2; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 31

297D.02 ADMINISTRATION.

The commissioner of revenue shall administer this chapter. Payments required by this chapter must be made to the commissioner on the form provided by the commissioner. Tax obligors are not required to give their name, address, social security number, or other identifying information on the form. The commissioner shall collect all taxes under this chapter.

History: 1986 c 470 s 5; 1987 c 268 art 17 s 35; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 32

297D.03 RULES.

The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to enforce this chapter. The commissioner shall adopt a uniform system of providing, affixing, and displaying official stamps, official labels, or other official indicia for marijuana and controlled substances on which a tax is imposed.

History: 1986 c 470 s 6

297D.04 TAX PAYMENT REQUIRED FOR POSSESSION.

No tax obligor may possess any marijuana or controlled substance upon which a tax is imposed by section 297D.08 unless the tax has been paid on the marijuana or other controlled substance as evidenced by a stamp or other official indicia.

History: 1986 c 470 s 7; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 33

297D.05 NO IMMUNITY.

Nothing in this chapter may in any manner provide immunity for a tax obligor from criminal prosecution pursuant to Minnesota law.

History: 1986 c 470 s 8; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 34

297D.06 PHARMACEUTICALS.

Nothing in this chapter requires persons registered under chapter 151 or otherwise lawfully in possession of marijuana or a controlled substance to pay the tax required under this chapter.

History: 1986 c 470 s 9

297D.07 MEASUREMENT.

For the purpose of calculating the tax under section 297D.08, a quantity of marijuana or other controlled substance is measured by the weight of the substance whether pure or impure or dilute, or by dosage units when the substance is not sold by weight, in the tax obligor's possession. A quantity of a controlled substance is dilute if it consists of a detectable quantity of pure controlled substance and any excipients or fillers.

History: 1986 c 470 s 10; 1987 c 268 art 17 s 36; 1987 c 330 s 3; 1987 c 384 art 3 s 48; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 35

297D.08 TAX RATE.

A tax is imposed on marijuana and controlled substances as defined in section 297D.01 at the following rates:

- (1) on each gram of marijuana, or each portion of a gram, \$3.50; and
- (2) on each gram of controlled substance, or portion of a gram, \$200; or
- (3) on each ten dosage units of a controlled substance that is not sold by weight, or portion thereof, \$400.

History: 1986 c 470 s 11; 1988 c 719 art 19 s 15

297D.085 CREDIT FOR PREVIOUSLY PAID TAXES.

If another state or local unit of government has previously assessed an excise tax on the marijuana or controlled substances, the taxpayer must pay the difference between the tax due under section 297D.08 and the tax previously paid. If the tax previously paid to the other state or local unit of government was equal to or greater than the tax due under section 297D.08, no tax is due. The burden is on the taxpayer to show that an excise tax on the marijuana or controlled substances has been paid to another state or local unit of government.

History: 1989 c 277 art 1 s 25

297D.09 PENALTIES; CRIMINAL PROVISIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Penalties.** Any tax obligor violating this chapter is subject to a penalty of 100 percent of the tax in addition to the tax imposed by section 297D.08. The penalty will be collected as part of the tax.

Subd. 1a. **Criminal penalty; sale without affixed stamps.** In addition to the tax penalty imposed, a tax obligor distributing or possessing marijuana or controlled substances without affixing the appropriate stamps, labels, or other indicia is guilty of a crime and, upon conviction, may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than seven years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$14,000, or both.

Subd. 2. **Statute of limitations.** Notwithstanding section 628.26, or any other provision of the criminal laws of this state, an indictment may be found and filed, or a

complaint filed, upon any criminal offense specified in this section, in the proper court within six years after the commission of this offense.

History: 1986 c 470 s 12; 1987 c 268 art 17 s 37; 1989 c 290 art 6 s 2; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 36,37

297D.10 STAMP PRICE.

Official stamps, labels, or other indicia to be affixed to all marijuana or controlled substances shall be purchased from the commissioner. The purchaser shall pay 100 percent of face value for each stamp, label, or other indicia at the time of the purchase.

History: 1986 c 470 s 13; 1987 c 268 art 17 s 38

297D.11 PAYMENT DUE.

Subdivision 1. **Stamps affixed.** When a tax obligor purchases, acquires, transports, or imports into this state marijuana or controlled substances on which a tax is imposed by section 297D.08, and if the indicia evidencing the payment of the tax have not already been affixed, the tax obligor shall have them permanently affixed on the marijuana or controlled substance immediately after receiving the substance. Each stamp or other official indicia may be used only once.

Subd. 2. **Payable on possession.** Taxes imposed upon marijuana or controlled substances by this chapter are due and payable immediately upon acquisition or possession in this state by a tax obligor.

History: 1986 c 470 s 14; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 38

297D.12 ALL ASSESSMENTS ARE JEOPARDY.

Subdivision 1. **Assessment procedure.** An assessment for a tax obligor not possessing valid stamps or other official indicia showing that the tax has been paid shall be considered a jeopardy assessment or collection, as provided in section 270.70. The commissioner shall assess a tax and applicable penalties based on personal knowledge or information available to the commissioner; mail the taxpayer at the taxpayer's last known address or serve in person, a written notice of the amount of tax and penalty; demand its immediate payment; and, if payment is not immediately made, collect the tax and penalty by any method prescribed in chapter 270, except that the commissioner need not await the expiration of the times specified in chapter 270.

Subd. 2. **Injunction prohibited.** No person may bring suit to enjoin the assessment or collection of any taxes, interest, or penalties imposed by this chapter.

Subd. 3. **Standard of proof.** The tax and penalties assessed by the commissioner are presumed to be valid and correctly determined and assessed. The burden is upon the taxpayer to show their incorrectness or invalidity. Any statement filed by the commissioner with the court administrator, or any other certificate by the commissioner of the amount of tax and penalties determined or assessed is admissible in evidence and is prima facie evidence of the facts it contains.

History: 1986 c 470 s 15; 1987 c 268 art 17 s 39; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 39

297D.13 CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF INFORMATION.

Subdivision 1. **Disclosure prohibited.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, neither the commissioner nor a public employee may reveal facts contained in a report or return required by this chapter or any information obtained from a tax obligor; nor can any information contained in such a report or return or obtained from a tax obligor be used against the tax obligor in any criminal proceeding, unless independently obtained, except in connection with a proceeding involving taxes due under this chapter from the tax obligor making the return.

Subd. 2. **Penalty for disclosure.** Any person violating this section is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Subd. 3. **Statistics.** This section does not prohibit the commissioner from publishing statistics that do not disclose the identity of tax obligors or the contents of particular returns or reports.

Subd. 4. **Possession of stamps.** A stamp denoting payment of the tax imposed under this chapter must not be used against the taxpayer in a criminal proceeding, except that the stamp may be used against the taxpayer in connection with the administration or civil or criminal enforcement of the tax imposed under this chapter or any similar tax imposed by another state or local unit of government.

History: 1986 c 470 s 16; 1987 c 268 art 17 s 40; 1989 c 277 art 1 s 26; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 40,41

297D.14 INVESTIGATORY POWERS.

For the purpose of determining the correctness of any return, determining the amount of tax that should have been paid, determining whether or not the tax obligor should have made a return or paid taxes, or collecting any taxes under this chapter, the commissioner may examine, or cause to be examined, any books, papers, records, or memoranda, that may be relevant to making such determinations, whether the books, papers, records, or memoranda, are the property of or in the possession of the tax obligor or another person. The commissioner may require the attendance of any person having knowledge or information that may be relevant, compel the production of books, papers, records, or memoranda by persons required to attend, take testimony on matters material to the determination, and administer oaths or affirmations. Upon demand of the commissioner or any examiner or investigator, the court administrator of any court shall issue a subpoena for the attendance of a witness or the production of books, papers, records, and memoranda. The commissioner may also issue subpoenas. Disobedience of subpoenas issued under this chapter is punishable by the district court of the district in which the subpoena is issued, or, if the subpoena is issued by the commissioner, by the district court of the district in which the party served with the subpoena is located, in the same manner as contempt of district court.

History: 1986 c 470 s 17; 1991 c 291 art 9 s 42