

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1527

DATE: April 26, 2005

Version: As introduced

Authors: Marquart

Subject: Allowing joint public truth-in-taxation advertisements and hearings

Analyst: Karen Baker, 651-296-8959
Steve Hinze, 651-296-8956

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

Allows for a single joint truth-in-taxation (TnT) public advertisement and a single joint TnT hearing involving the county, and all other taxing authorities located wholly or partially within the county. The hearing would be held on a single evening, with various break-out meetings for the various taxing authorities. Applies only to the nonmetropolitan counties, cities, and school districts. Effective for advertisements and hearings held in 2005 and thereafter.

Section

- 1 Joint public hearings; nonmetropolitan counties, cities, and school districts.** (a) Allows the county to hold a joint public TnT hearing with the governing bodies of all of the taxing authorities located wholly or partially within the county that are required to hold a public hearing. States that the primary purpose of the joint hearing is for taxpayer efficiency by allowing taxpayers to come to a single public hearing to discuss the budgets and proposed levies of most of the taxing authorities that impact their property taxes.
- (b) Provides that this joint public hearing applies only to counties located outside the seven county metropolitan area. If a city or school district is located partially within the seven metro counties, that taxing jurisdiction may participate in its nonmetropolitan county's joint hearing, at its own discretion.
- (c) Provides that upon adoption of a resolution by the county board to hold a joint hearing,

Section

the county shall notify each city with a population of over 500 and each school district that is located wholly or partially within the county of its intention to hold the joint hearing and ask each of the taxing authorities if they wish to participate. Participation is voluntary, but is in lieu of each authority's required initial hearing. If a participating city or school district is located in more than one county, the hearing is in lieu of the required separate hearing if 75 percent or more of that city's or school district's previous year's net tax capacity is in the county where the hearing is held.

(d) Provides that the joint hearing shall be held on the first Thursday in December. (That is the regularly scheduled date for the counties to hold their initial hearing.)

Provides that the county board shall obtain a meeting space to hold the hearing, preferably at a public building such as a courthouse, school, or community center, and be as centrally located in the county as possible.

The meeting shall be structured in the following general manner:

- 1. first 30-60 minutes, discussion of county's budget and levy;
- 2. next 30-60 minutes, discussion of city's budget and levy, each city's discussion must be held in separate room, preferably in same building;
- 3. next 30-60 minutes, discussion of school district's levy, each school district's discussion must be held in separate room, preferably in same building;
- 4. the last 30 minutes, reassemble the joint meeting with all governing bodies to entertain any follow-up questions.

An attempt should be made to keep the total public hearing time within 3 hours.

(e) Requires a single newspaper advertisement for the county and any city or school district that is participating in the joint hearing. This advertisement is in lieu of the individual newspaper advertisement that is required in current law. The cost of the advertisement is apportioned between the taxing authorities. The same requirements apply to this advertisement as apply to advertisements under current law (i.e. publishing, type of newspaper, etc). Provides for the format of the advertisement, containing a listing of the property taxes for the current year, the proposed property taxes, and the percent change for all of the taxing authorities that are participating in the joint hearing. It also includes a standard notice inviting all residents to come, the time, place, etc,

Provides that the formal adopting of the taxing authority's levy must not be made at this joint hearing, but rather at one of the regularly scheduled meetings of the taxing authority's governing body. The amount of the levy subsequently adopted cannot exceed the amount disclosed to taxpayers at the joint public hearing.

Effective for hearings held in 2005 and thereafter.

