

House Research Act Summary

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Article 1: Property Taxes

Overview

Article 1 makes a variety of changes to the property tax system:

- Provides for a study of the fiscal disparities program
- Provides additional aid to the city of St. Charles for its loss of tax base due to a major fire
- Exempts from property taxation federal lands that are leased to individual taxpayers for seasonal recreational purposes
- Shortens the duration of the covenant requirement in the Rural Preserves program from ten years to eight years, and modifies the conservation plan requirements of the program
- Changes the petition and veto requirements for housing improvement areas
- Increases payment in lieu payments for land in the Soudan Underground Mine State park
- Requires the commissioner of revenue to consult with the University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics in adjusting countywide average land values for the Green Acres program

- 1** **Rate of tax; airflight property.** Requires the commissioner of transportation to annually certify the airflight property tax information to the commissioner of revenue by December 31. (Current date is September 1.) Provides that the certification shall state the total fund appropriation and shall list individually the estimated fund revenues, which may include a portion of the balance in the state airports fund as determined to be available by the commissioner of transportation. The difference between the total fund appropriation and the estimated revenues equals the property tax portion, which the commissioner of revenue shall use when determining the rate of tax to be levied and collected against the net tax capacity of the airflight property.

If the levy amount has not been certified by December 31, the commissioner of revenue shall use the last previous certified amount to determine the tax, and shall notify the chairs and the ranking minority members of the committees of the house and senate having jurisdiction over the Department of Transportation that a certification was not made timely.

Effective for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.

- 2** **Notice of taxes, payment.** Changes the date for the commissioner of revenue to notify the airline companies of their tax amount from December 1 to March 1. Changes the due date for payment of the tax from January 1 to April 1. These dates are advanced to conform with the date change in section 1.

Effective for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.

- 3 Business incubator property sunset.** Extends from 2011 to 2016 the termination of the property tax exemption for a business incubator property.
- 4 Leased seasonal-recreational land.** Exempts from property taxation all land that is owned by the federal government and leased for noncommercial seasonal-recreational or noncommercial seasonal-recreational residential use. The improvements continue to be subject to tax. Taxpayers holding these leases pay annual lease payments to the federal government. The county where the property is located gets a portion of this money returned to them as a federal payment.

As a result of a law change made in 2008, leased noncommercial seasonal-recreational land and noncommercial seasonal-recreational residential land is exempt from property taxation only if (1) the county board adopts a resolution to exempt the land, and (2) the land was rented for those purposes and was exempt from property taxation for taxes payable in 2008. The 2008 law became effective beginning with taxes payable in 2009.

This provision expands the 2008 exemption to all property owned by the federal government that is used for these purposes; it also eliminates (for federally leased property) the county board approval for the exemption and the requirement that the property needed to be exempt for taxes payable in 2008.

Effective for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.

- 5 Green Acres property transfers.** Provides for continuation of Green Acres treatment for property that would no longer be eligible for Green Acres treatment under the changes in the law in 2008, but was transferred from a family farm limited liability company upon its termination to a son or daughter of an individual who had an ownership interest in the company. Current law provides that Green Acres treatment continues in effect for otherwise ineligible property if it is sold or otherwise transferred to a son or daughter of the owner. In any event, these lands will no longer qualify for Green Acres treatment after the 2013 assessment. Effective payable in 2011 and thereafter.
- 6 Green Acres property valuation.** Allows the commissioner of revenue to consult with the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota in developing a fair and uniform method of determining the average value of agricultural land in each county, to be used for property enrolled in the Green Acres program. The values must be calculated using appropriate sales data. Reasonable adjustments may be made to the values based on agricultural production data. In order to determine values for individual assessment districts based on the countywide average values, appropriate agricultural market and soil data may be used.

Effective for assessment year 2012 and thereafter.

- 7 Definitions; rural preserves program.** Changes the eligibility requirements for property to be enrolled in the rural preserves program by requiring a conservation assessment plan rather than a conservation management plan. A conservation assessment plan requires a USDA field map rather than a field inventory of the individual conservation practices and cover types of the property. Effective day following final enactment.

- 8 Requirements; rural preserves program.** Reduces the minimum time that a property must be enrolled in the program from ten years to eight years. Makes other miscellaneous technical changes.
- 9 Covenant agreement; rural preserves program.** Reduces the amount of time that property enrolled in rural preserves must remain in the program after notifying the assessor of intent to withdraw from five years to three years. Does not change the requirement that the property must have been enrolled for five years before a notice of intent to withdraw may be given.
- 10 Manufactured home park cooperative.** Modifies the property tax treatment of land owned by a manufactured home park cooperative that qualifies for homestead treatment. Provides for a special class rate, as specified in section 15. Also provides that this land is not eligible to receive the market value homestead credit. Further provides that taxes on this land are not to be included in the determination of “rent constituting property taxes” under the property tax refund program.

***Background:** Under current law, the tax treatment of manufactured home park land qualifying for homestead treatment is somewhat ambiguous and difficult to administer. The law envisions that the park land is divided into shares, with each owner’s share of the land value added to the value of the owner’s manufactured home. This treatment is difficult administratively for a number of reasons, one of which is that the park land is real property (i.e., valued in one year and taxed in the following year), but the manufactured home is personal property (i.e., valued and taxed in the same year). It is also unclear how to apply the market value homestead credit to the park land.*

This provision keeps the value of the land distinct from the value of the individual homes, with a class rate that is lower than the normal residential homestead rate (0.75 percent versus one percent, provided that the park contains more than 50 percent shareholders), but without any market value homestead credit on the park land. It also precludes the tax on the land from being included with the owner’s home tax for purposes of the property tax refund.

Effective for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.

- 11 Homestead owned by a family farm corporation, other entities.** Allows a shareholder, member, or partner of a family farm corporation, joint farm venture, limited liability company (LLC), or partnership that also has a separate agricultural homestead whose market value does not reach the maximum value of the first tier homestead class rate, to apply the first tier class rate to property of the entity, up to the unused portion of the first tier maximum value.

Provides that the property of the entity must be contiguous or if noncontiguous, located in the same township or city, or within four townships or cities, or combination thereof from the 2a homestead. Requires the owner to notify the county assessor by July 1 that a portion of market value may be eligible for the homestead classification for taxes payable in the following year.

For example, if a shareholder of an LLC did not live on the LLC property but had a separate agricultural homestead with a total market value of only \$700,000, then \$440,000 of the shareholder’s LLC’s market value would be entitled to receive the 0.5 percent class rate [the first tier class rate applies to the first \$1,140,000 of market value for taxes payable

in 2011].

Effective for assessment year 2010 and thereafter, for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.

- 12 Special agricultural homesteads; Marshall County flood.** Provides that agricultural land and buildings that were classified as class 2a homestead property for the 2008 assessment shall remain classified as agricultural homesteads for subsequent assessments, if:

- (1) the property owner abandoned the homestead dwelling located on the homestead property as a result of the March 2009 floods;
- (2) the property is located in Marshall County;
- (3) the agricultural land and buildings remain under the same ownership for the current assessment year as existed for the 2008 assessment and continue to be used for agricultural purposes;
- (4) the dwelling occupied by the owner is located in Minnesota and is within 50 miles of one of the parcels owned by the taxpayer; and
- (5) the owner notifies the county assessor that relocation was due to the 2009 floods.

Effective for assessment years 2010 and 2011, for taxes payable in 2011 and 2012.

- 13 Homestead resort classification.** Provides that if an owner of property that had been classified as class 1c (homestead resort) property ceases to use that property as the owner's homestead, but retains ownership of the property and continues to operate the property as a resort, and then begins to occupy property located within the same township as a class 1c homestead, both of these properties will be assessed as a single class 1c property.

Effective for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.

- 14 Class 2 (agricultural) property.** Broadens eligibility for property used for commercial boarding of horses to qualify for agricultural classification in two ways. First, it defines commercial boarding of horses to include land used for horse training and riding instruction. Second, it allows commercial horse boarding/training property to be considered agricultural as long as some of the land is devoted to grazing, provided that it meets the ten acre minimum requirement. This language is in response to a portion of the tax court's decision of *Sommerdorf v. Sherburne County* (File # 71-CV-08-752, January 21, 2010).

Effective for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.

- 15 Class 4 property.** Provides that manufactured home park cooperative land that qualifies for homestead treatment has a class rate equal to the class rate for class 4d low-income apartments (0.75 percent), if more than 50 percent of the lots are occupied by shareholders in the association. The class rate is one percent if 50 percent or fewer of the lots are occupied by shareholders.

Also allows property to qualify as a marina with public access if there is an access ramp on a publicly owned site that abuts the property of the marina.

Effective for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.

- 16 Notice of proposed property taxes (TnT).** Provides that no TnT notice will be required to include a personal telephone number or address as the contact information for a taxing authority (affects mostly townships and small cities). Effective for notices sent in 2010 and thereafter.
- 17 Adjusted levy limit base.** Limits the implicit price deflator (IPD) for state and local government purchases used in calculating levy limits to between zero and 3.9 percent. Under current law there is no minimum. Effective for taxes levied in 2010 and thereafter.
- 18 Charter exemption for aid loss.** Strikes obsolete language for taxes payable in 2004 and 2005. Authorizes the governing body of a municipality to increase its levy over its charter limit for aid and credit cuts resulting from unallotment or law changes. Effective for levies payable in calendar year 2011 and thereafter.
- 19 Treasurer to be collector.** Expands the method of payment of property taxes by allowing the county board to authorize the county treasurer to accept electronic payments, including, but not limited to, automated clearing house (ACH) transactions and federal wires. Also provides that all charges for dishonored payment of property taxes may be added to the tax, shall constitute a lien on the property, and when collected, shall be distributed to the county.
- Under current law, the county board may by resolution authorize the county treasurer to accept payments of real property by credit card provided that a fee is charged for its use (this charge is imposed and collected by the credit card company). The counties receive the full amount of the taxpayer's payment under this method. This arrangement is left unchanged.
- These changes attempt to improve the county's efficiency in tax collection by allowing the county to add charges for checks returned, due to insufficient funds, to the tax and include it as part of the lien. When this charge is collected it is distributed to the county since it is an administrative charge.
- Effective for property taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.
- 20 Property tax installments.** Reduces from \$250 to \$100 the minimum property tax amount for which counties must allow payments in two installments. *[Note: this threshold was increased from \$50 to \$250 in the 2009 omnibus tax act.]*
- Effective for taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.
- 21 Payment of delinquent property taxes, special assessments.** Allows delinquent property taxes and special assessments to be paid by electronic means (the same as in section 19).
- Effective for property taxes payable in 2011 and thereafter.
- 22 Petition required; housing improvement areas.** Increases the required percentage from 25 percent to 50 percent of owners of housing units needed (i) to file a petition requesting a public hearing, and (ii) to take action proposing a fee.
- Effective for petitions filed beginning July 1, 2010.

Background: *A housing improvement area (HIA) is a defined area in a city in which housing improvements in condominium or townhome complexes may be financed with the assistance of the city, or the city's economic development authority (EDA) or housing and*

redevelopment authority (HRA). Improvements made under this law include improvements to the common elements in a development such as roofing, siding, landscaping, roadways, and walkways. An HIA can only be established at the request of the owners of the housing units in the proposed area.

- 23 Requirements for veto; housing improvement area fees.** Increases the percentage requirement to veto the establishment of a housing improvement area from 35 percent to 45 percent of residents. Increases the percentage requirement to veto a housing improvement area fee increase from 35 percent to 45 percent of owners of the housing units (based on housing units' net tax capacity). Effective beginning July 1, 2010.
- 24 Application date; Metro Ag Preserve program.** Extends the deadline for application to the Metropolitan Agricultural Preserve program from March 1 to June 1 for taxes payable in the following year. This is not an annual application, but is done only when initially applying for enrollment in the program.
- Effective the day following final enactment, except that in 2010 the application date is extended to August 1.
- 25 Soudan Underground Mine State Park; payment in lieu of taxes.** Provides that the payment in lieu of taxes for land within the Soudan Underground Mine State Park will be the same as for the Lake Vermilion State Park. Also provides that the distribution of the proceeds for the Soudan State Park will be the same as for the Lake Vermilion State Park.
- Effective for payments in 2011 and thereafter.
- 26 Tax abatement extended; newly constructed residential structures in flood-damaged cities.** Extends the deadline for commencing construction of a structure to qualify for the tax abatement for new residential structures in flood-damaged cities from December 31, 2010, to December 31, 2011. Effective day following final enactment.
- 27 Effective date.** Allows structures to receive the abatement for newly constructed structures in flood-damaged cities in payable 2014, to coincide with the extension of the date for starting construction in section 26. No change is made to the limitation that a structure is eligible for the abatement for two payable years only.
- 28 Fiscal disparities study.** Requires the commissioner of revenue to conduct a study of the fiscal disparities program to be completed by February 1, 2012. The study is to analyze:
- (1) how benefits of economic growth are shared throughout the region, especially with regard to growth resulting from state or regional decisions;
 - (2) the program's impact on the variability of tax rates throughout the region;
 - (3) the program's impact on the distribution of homestead property tax burdens within the region; and
 - (4) the relationship between the impacts of the program and overburden on jurisdictions containing properties that provide regional benefits.

The study is also to include a brief description of other property tax, aid, and local development programs that interact with the fiscal disparities program.

Effective January 1, 2011.

- 29 Fiscal disparities levy.** Provides for an additional levy of \$100,000 on the fiscal disparities areawide pool for taxes payable in 2011 only to provide funding for the fiscal disparities study under section 28. Provides for the proceeds of the levy to be deposited in the state general fund. The funds are appropriated to the Department of Revenue in section 32.
- 30 Thief River Falls airport authority; special levy authority.** Provides that if an airport authority is established for the Thief River Falls airport, the authority may choose to spread the levy on referendum market value rather than net tax capacity. If the authority intends to levy on this basis, it must be stated in the joint agreement establishing the authority.
- Effective the day following final enactment (without local approval).
- 31 City of St. Charles; additional aid.** Appropriates \$50,000 to the commissioner of revenue for an additional aid payment to the city of St. Charles to compensate for the loss of a major manufacturing facility due to a fire in April 2009. The payment is to be made at the same time as the December 2010, LGA payment.
- 32 Appropriation.** Appropriates \$50,000 in each of fiscal years 2011 and 2012 to the commissioner of revenue for the fiscal disparities study under section 28.

Article 2: Property Tax Reform, Accountability, Value, and Efficiency Provisions

Overview

- Section 1 creates the Council on Local Results and Innovation which establishes a standard set of performance measures, and minimum standards for comprehensive performance measurement systems, for counties and cities that want to use them. The council is also to serve as a statewide resource for the development, promotion, and implementation of local government performance measurement systems.
- Section 2 provides that counties and cities that choose to participate in the reporting of standard measures are eligible for cost reimbursement payments from the state. Counties and cities that choose to implement comprehensive performance measurement systems that meet the minimum standards established by the council are exempt from levy limits (if in effect).
- Section 3 embodies the work of the Working Group on State Property Tax System Benchmarks, Critical Indicators and Principals for Legislators to Use when Evaluating Property Tax Proposals. It establishes a property tax working group and requires the house and senate tax committees to prepare a resolution on targets and benchmarks for use during the biennium. Beginning with the 2011 legislative session, requires the Department of Revenue to identify how the property tax principles apply to proposed property tax changes.

1 Council on local results and innovation.

Subd. 1. Creation. Creates the council with 11 members, including the state auditor, four persons who are not legislators appointed by the chair and minority leads of the Property and Local Sales Tax Division of the House Tax Committee, four persons who are not legislators appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees of the Senate Rules Committee, and one person each appointed by the Association of Minnesota Counties and the League of Minnesota Cities. Specifies four-year, staggered terms, desired knowledge, and experience of appointees. Provides that after the initial appointments, the eight appointments by legislators must be made by the council.

Subd. 2. Duties. (a) By February 15, 2011, requires the council to develop approximately ten standard performance measures for counties and ten for cities aimed at measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of counties and cities in providing services.

(b) By February 15, 2012, requires the council to develop minimum standards for comprehensive performance measurement systems, which may vary by size and type of jurisdiction.

(c) Requires the council to serve as a statewide resource to aid in the development, promotion, and implementation of local government performance measurement systems.

Subd. 3. Reports. Requires the council to report its initial set of county and city standard performance measures to the property tax committees of the house and senate by February 28, 2011. Requires an annual report by February 1 in subsequent years. Permits the state auditor to make the reports instead of the council if agreed by both the state auditor and the council.

Subd. 4. Operation of council. Directs the state auditor to convene the first council meeting; provides for the chair to be elected by and from among the council members for two-year terms; provides that council members serve without compensation; provides that council members are to rotate and share administrative support responsibilities; exempts the council from the open meeting law but requires it to conduct open meetings; and requires meeting notices to be published on the state auditor's Web site.

Subd. 5. Termination. Provides that the council expires January 1, 2020.

Effective upon enactment.

2 Local performance measurement and reporting.

Subd. 1. Reports of local performance measures. Requires a county or city that participates in the standard measures program to report results to its citizens annually and to file a report with the state auditor by July 1.

Describes two programs of participation. Each year, a city or county participating in the standard measures program must report its results for the standard set of performance measures. In 2012, a city or county participating in the comprehensive

performance measurement program must submit a resolution indicating it either has implemented or is in the process of implementing a local performance measurement system meeting the minimum standards. In 2013 and thereafter, a city or county participating in the comprehensive performance measurement program must affirm that it has implemented a local performance measurement system meeting the minimum standards.

Subd. 2. Benefits of participation. (a) A participant in the standard measures program in 2011 may receive a per capita reimbursement of 14 cents, up to \$25,000, and is exempt from levy limits for taxes payable in 2012.

(b) A participant in the standard measures program in 2012 may receive a per capita reimbursement of 14 cents, up to \$25,000. A participant in the comprehensive performance measurement program in 2012 is exempt from levy limits for taxes payable in 2013.

(c) A participant in the standard measures program in 2013 or any year thereafter may receive a per capita reimbursement of 14 cents, up to \$25,000. A participant in the comprehensive performance measurement program in 2013 or any year thereafter is exempt from levy limits for taxes payable in the following year.

Subd. 3. Certification of participation. Directs the state auditor to certify participation to the commissioner of revenue. Provides for the commissioner of revenue to make the per capita reimbursements and notify each city and county that is exempt from levy limits.

Subd. 4. Appropriation. (a) Establishes a standing appropriation from the general fund for payments to participating jurisdictions under this section.

(b) Appropriates \$6,000 in FY 2011 and \$2,000 in each FY thereafter to the state auditor to carry out its responsibilities under sections 1 and 2.

Effective December 31, 2010.

3 **Property tax system benchmarks and critical indicators.**

Subd. 1. Purpose. States that state policy makers should be provided with the tools to create a more accountable and efficient property tax system. Contains the principals and the available tools necessary to work toward achieving that goal.

Subd. 2. Property tax principles. Contains the basic property tax principals that should be taken into consideration in evaluating legislative property tax proposals. The principals are: transparent and understandable; simple and efficient; equitable; stable and predictable; compliance and accountability; competitive, both nationally and globally; and responsive to economic conditions.

Subd. 3. Major indicators. Provides that there are many different types of indicators available to legislators to evaluate tax legislation, each with its own limitations. Contains the following list of the available major indicators: property tax principles scale (components listed in subdivision 2) relate to the property tax system features; price of government report; tax incidence report; tax expenditure budget and report; state tax rankings; property tax levy plus aid data, and market value and net

tax capacity data by taxing district; effective tax rate and equalized effective tax rate; assessment sales ratio study; “Voss” data base, which matches homeowner property taxes and household income; revenue estimates and state fiscal notes; and local impact notes.

Subd. 4. Property tax working group. Establishes a property tax working group. The goals of the working group are: to investigate ways to simplify the property tax system, to reexamine the property tax calendar, and to determine the cost versus the benefits of the various property tax components.

Provides for the working group to have 13 members appointed as follows:

- two house members, one from the majority caucus and one from the largest minority party, both appointed by the Tax Committee chair
- two senators appointed by the Senate Subcommittee on Committees of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, one from the majority party and one from the largest minority party
- the commissioner of revenue, or designee
- one person from each: appointed by the Association of Minnesota Counties, the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota Association of Townships, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, and the Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers
- two homeowners, one under 65 and one over 65, appointed by the commissioner of revenue
- one person appointed jointly by the Minnesota Farmers Union and the Minnesota Farm Bureau

Provides for the commissioner of revenue to convene the first meeting and then for the working group to elect a chair. The working group meets at the call of the chair and members serve without compensation.

Requires the working group to make its advisory recommendations to the chairs of the house and senate tax committees on or before February 1, 2012, at which time the working group is finished (and this subdivision expires).

Subd. 5. Tax committee review and resolution. Requires that on or before March 1, 2012, and every two years thereafter, the house and senate tax committees must review the major indicators (as contained in subdivision 3) and ascertain the accountability and efficiency of the property tax system. Requires each committee to prepare a resolution on targets and benchmarks for use during the current biennium.

Subd. 6. Department of Revenue; revenue estimates. Requires that beginning with the 2011 legislative session, the revenue estimates prepared by the Department of Revenue must also identify how the property tax principles (contained in subdivision 2) apply to the proposed changes. Requires the commissioner to develop a scale for measuring the appropriate principles for each proposed change. If possible, requires the department to quantify the effects, or at a minimum identify the relevant factors so that legislators are aware of possible outcomes, including

administrative difficulties and cost. The interaction of property tax shifting should be identified.

Subd. 7. Appropriation. Appropriates \$30,000 in FY 2011 and \$25,000 in each fiscal year thereafter to the commissioner of revenue for the additional work required for revenue estimates in subdivision 6.

Effective the day following final enactment.

Article 3: Individual Income, Corporate Franchise, and Estate Taxes

Overview

This article makes a number of minor and technical changes in the individual income, corporate franchise, and estate taxes, most of which are recommendations of the Department of Revenue.

- 1 **Nonresident partnership returns; cross-reference.** Updates cross references to reflect deletion in sections 9 and 10 of the obsolete subtraction for the federal small ethanol producer's credit, allowed through tax year 2007 under both the individual income and corporate franchise tax.
- 2 **Electronic filing of withholding tax reports.** Strikes obsolete references to 100 return threshold for electronic filing of withholding tax reports in tax year 2008, and the 50 return threshold in effect for tax year 2009. Leaves in place the 25 return threshold for electronic filing of withholding tax reports for tax year 2010, and the 10 return threshold for tax year 2011 and following years. Clarifies that all statements required to be submitted are aggregated in determining whether the electronic reporting threshold is met. This clarifies that construction contractor withholding is subject to the same electronic filing requirements as employers' wage withholding.
Effective date: Statements required to be filed after December 31, 2010.
- 3 **Due date of return of regulated investment companies.** Requires regulated investment companies that pay municipal bond interest to file a returns with the department by June 1. The returns is required under present law, but there is no date specified for filing. Also changes the due date for the issuance of statements by those regulated investment companies to their investors to from 30 days after the close of the tax year to February 15.
Effective date: Returns due after December 31, 2010.
- 4 **Corporate franchise tax return due dates.** Conforms the due dates for the various corporate franchise tax returns to the federal due dates.
Effective date: Taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.
- 5 **Paying estate tax in installments.** Clarifies that the percentage of Minnesota estate tax deferred by taxpayers electing to pay estate tax in installments may not exceed the

percentage of federal estate tax deferred.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 6 Refunds payable when taxpayer address is invalid.** Provides that interest due on property tax refund payments stops running when the department mails the required notification of refund, if the department determines that the address the taxpayer used to file the refund claim is invalid or no longer current. This date also marks the start of the time period for issuance of a new property tax refund warrant.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 7 Frivolous return penalty.** Changes the terms “individual” and “person” to “taxpayer” for consistency in the statute that provides a penalty for filing a frivolous return.

Effective date: Returns filed after the day following final enactment.

- 8 Additions to taxable income; individuals; municipal bond interest paid by regulated investment companies.** Clarifies that the required addition to taxable income for federally exempt municipal bond interest paid by regulated investment companies does not require the inclusion of interest exempt from state taxation under federal law, such as interest paid on obligations of a U.S. territory. Also clarifies that any interest from municipal bonds that is exempt from state taxation under federal law is treated as tax-exempt interest for purposes of determining whether 95 percent of the dividends paid by the regulated investment company are paid from obligations issued by Minnesota.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 9 Subtractions from taxable income; individuals; small ethanol producer credit.** Deletes the obsolete subtraction for the federal small ethanol producer credit. While the federal credit remains in effect, the state subtraction expired following tax year 2007.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 10 Subtractions from taxable income; corporations; small ethanol producer credit.** Deletes the obsolete subtraction for the federal small ethanol producer credit. While the federal credit remains in effect, the state subtraction expired following tax year 2007.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 11 Individual income tax, nexus rules.** Provides that for a single-member Limited Liability Company (LLC), which the owner has elected to disregard status for individual income tax purposes and which has income that is assigned to Minnesota, the income is taxed as though it was received directly by the individual, rather than by the LLC. This parallels the similar treatment of ownership interests in partnerships (which includes multi-member LLCs) and S corporations.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 12 Individual income tax rates; cross-reference.** Updates cross references to reflect deletion in sections 9 and 10 of the obsolete subtraction for the federal small ethanol producer’s credit, allowed through tax year 2007 under both the individual income and corporate franchise tax.

- 13 Dependent care credit; cross-reference.** Updates cross references to reflect deletion in sections 9 and 10 of the obsolete subtraction for the federal small ethanol producer’s credit, allowed through tax year 2007 under both the individual income and corporate franchise tax.
- 14 Working family credit; cross-reference.** Updates cross references to reflect deletion in sections 9 and 10 of the obsolete subtraction for the federal small ethanol producer’s credit, allowed through tax year 2007 under both the individual income and corporate franchise tax.
- 15 Income tax reciprocity.** Modifies the requirement for income tax reciprocity to allow the commissioner additional flexibility regarding the reimbursement by Wisconsin for Minnesota’s revenue loss resulting from a reciprocity agreement.
- Effective date:** Day following final enactment
- 16 Alternative minimum taxable income; individuals; cross-reference.** Updates cross references to reflect deletion in sections 9 and 10 of the obsolete subtraction for the federal small ethanol producer’s credit, allowed through tax year 2007 under both the individual income and corporate franchise tax.
- 17 Alternative minimum taxable income; corporations; cross-reference.** Updates cross references to reflect deletion in sections 9 and 10 of the obsolete subtraction for the federal small ethanol producer’s credit, allowed through tax year 2007 under both the individual income and corporate franchise tax.
- 18 Income tax, allocation rules for single member LLCs.** Clarifies that capital gain realized on the sale of a single-member LLC that is disregarded for federal income tax purposes is allocated to Minnesota and taxed as if the LLC did not exist. This parallels the similar treatment of ownership interests in partnerships (which includes multi-member LLCs) and S corporations.
- Effective date:** Day following final enactment
- 19 Angel investment credit; qualified investor.** Modifies the definition of “qualified investor” in the angel investment credit enacted in chapter 216 to exclude C corporations.

Article 4: Sales and Use Taxes

Overview

Makes administrative and technical changes to sales taxes proposed by the Department of Revenue. It also extends the effective date for an existing sales tax exemption for constructing a hydroelectric facility, slightly expands the sales tax construction exemption for low income housing, and provides a new construction exemption for an aerospace defense manufacturing facility.

- 1 Claims for refunds on behalf of purchasers.** Provides a timeline for when a seller claiming a refund on behalf of a purchaser must credit or refund that refund to the

purchaser. Currently no timeline exists. Requires a vendor to return to the commissioner, any amount that has not been credited or refunded to the purchaser within 60 days of the vendor receiving the refund. Within 3-1/2 years after the commissioner refunds the tax and interest to the vendor (for indefinite period if the refund was induced by fraud or misrepresentation), the commissioner may assess the vendor for underpayment of sales tax and interest, equal to that portion of the refund claim that was not refunded or credited to the purchaser. Effective for refunds issued after June 30, 2010.

- 2 **Sales tax imposed; rates.** Clarifies that the 3/8th percent outdoor heritage sales tax applies to manufactured homes and park trailers. Clarifies that any reference to the general sales tax rate in Chapter 297A includes both the 6.5% general tax and the 0.375% outdoor heritage tax until the outdoor heritage tax expires. The portion affecting manufactured homes and park trailers is effective after June 30, 2010; the rest is effective retroactively to June 30, 2009.
- 3 **Presumption of tax; burden of proof.** Clarifies that if a seller does not provide substantiation that a sales is not a taxable sales within 120 days after the date the commissioner requests substantiation, the exemptions claimed by the seller must be disallowed. The current law relieves the seller of liability if the seller provides the substantiation within 120 days. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 4 **Transitional period for pre-existing contracts or bids.** Deletes the requirement that for each qualifying contract or bid the contractor must give the seller documentation of the contract or bid and instead requires the contractor to keep the documentation. The seller need only receive a fully completed exemption certificate, Effective the day following final enactment.
- 5 **Fund-raising sales by or for non-profit groups.** Amends Minn. Stat. § 297A.70, subd. 13, to make it explicit that an organization that exist solely for the purpose of providing educational or social activities to young people must be nonprofit in order for their sales for fund-raising purposes to be exempt. This language was inadvertently omitted when the sales tax statutes were recodified in 2000. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 6 **Construction materials for qualified low-income housing projects.** Expands the existing sales tax exemption for low-income housing to include housing provide by a limited liability company(LLC) that consists of a sole member that is a nonprofit corporation. The exemption was extended to the nonprofit corporations in 2008 but many of them run these projects through an LLC to reduce liability for the entire nonprofit. Effective for sales and purchases made after June 30, 2010.
- 7 **Hydroelectric generating facility.** Extends an expired sales tax exemption for the construction of a hydroelectric generating facility on the Mississippi River near St. Anthony Falls. The project, which was supposed to be completed by December 31, 2009, was delayed because of the 35W bridge collapse. The exemption was extended to cover purchases from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010.
- 8 **Aerospace defense manufacturing facility.** Exempts materials and supplies used or consumed in construction or expansion of a manufacturing facility foe aerospace or defense related sensors and production of micro-electro-mechanical systems. The tax must be imposed and collected at the time of purchase and the facility owner may apply for a refund if the following conditions are met:

- The capital investment in the facility is at least \$59 million; and
- The facility employs no less than 1, 653 full-time equivalent employees.

25 percent of the refund will be paid out each year that the employment requirement is met, until the refund is paid in full. Effective for sales and purchases made after July 1, 2010 and before December 31, 2015.

- 9 Tax collected.** Requires the tax be collected and a refund applied for on the items exempted under section 8.
- 10 Refund, eligible persons.** Requires the owner of the facility qualifying for the exemption in section 8 apply for the refund.
- 11 Application.** Requires, contractors, subcontractors, and builders purchasing exempt items under section 8 provide the facility owner with the information necessary to apply for the refund.
- 12 Seller relief from certain liability.** This change is made to conform to the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement. Provides that if there are not at least 30 days between the enactment of a new tax rate and the effective date of the new rate, then for up to 30 days sellers and certified service providers shall be relieved from liability to the state for failing to collect tax at the new rate; provided the seller or certified service provider continued to impose and collect the tax at the immediately preceding tax rate, did not solicit purchasers at the old rate, and no fraud is involved. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 13 Purchaser relief from liability.** This change is made to conform to the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement. Provides that if there are not at least 30 days between the enactment of a new tax rate and the effective date of the new rate, then for up to 30 days a purchaser is relieved from liability to the state for failing to collect tax at the new rate; provided the purchaser paid the tax at the immediately preceding tax rate, and no fraud is involved. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 14 Special local taxes.** Requires that for any new or amended local tax that the Department has agreed to or is required to administer, the local unit of government must adopt definitions found in Minn. Stat., ch. 297A, or in Minn. Rules, ch. 8130, with terms consistent with the department's position as to the extent of their tax base. The purpose is to lessen administrative compliance burdens and complexity. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 15 Exemption from five percent motor vehicle rental fee; effective date change.** Amends a 2009 law to correct the effective date so that it applies to leases or rentals made or renewed on or after July 1, 2009, rather than to registrations made or renewed on or after that date. Effective retroactively to leases or rentals made or renewed after June 30, 2009.

Article 5: Local Sales Taxes

Overview

Allows a number of new local lodging, food and beverage, and admissions taxes. Makes technical changes to the existing Rochester local food and beverage and lodging taxes and adds bonding authority. Also increases bonding authority for the city of Proctor for projects funded by its local sales tax.

- 1 **Proctor, use of revenues.** Removes the cap of \$3.6 million on the amount that can be spent on the capital projects funded by the Proctor local sales tax.
- 2 **Proctor, bonds.** Increases the bonding authority for the capital projects funded from the existing Proctor local sales tax from \$3.6 million to \$10 million. This is effective upon approval by the voters at a general or special election held within to years of enactment of this provision.
- 3 **Rochester lodging tax.** Allows the city of Rochester to issue up to \$43.5 million in general obligation bonds to pay for the Mayo Civic Center Complex project to be funded by this tax and the city's food and beverage tax. The city does not have to hold an election to issue the bonds. The bonds are excluded from any city debt limits and any property tax needed to pay for the bonds are exempted from levy limits. Also clarifies that revenues may be used for payments of refund bonds for the project and adds standard language allowing extra revenue due to timing of expiration dates to be placed in the city general fund.
- 4 **Expiration of taxing authority (Rochester food and beverage tax).** Clarifies that revenues may be used for payments of refund bonds for the Mayo Civic Center Complex project and adds standard language allowing extra revenue due to timing of expiration dates to be placed in the city general fund.
- 5 **City of Detroit Lakes; local taxes authorized.**
 - Subd. 1. Food and beverage tax.** Allows the city to impose a one-half of one percent food and beverage tax without a referendum to sales at restaurants and places of refreshment. The tax would apply to on-sale intoxicating beverage sales as well. The imposition of the tax must be approved by the voters at a general or special election held within to years of enactment of this provision.
 - Subd. 2. Use of proceeds from authorized taxes.** Allows the proceeds of the taxes to fund four projects: (1) control of flowering rush infestation, (2) construction and improvement of bike trails, (3) parking improvements for public facilities, and (4) redevelopment of the area returned to the city as part of the Highway 10 realignment.
 - Subd. 3. Expiration of taxing authority.** The taxes expire when the city determines sufficient revenues have been raised to fund the projects listed in subdivision 3, including any associated bond costs.
 - Subd. 4. Collection, administration, and enforcement.** Allows the city to enter into an agreement with the Department of Revenue to collect the authorized taxes. Requires that if the tax is collected by the state the standard collection, administration,

and enforcement provisions for general local sales taxes apply.

6 **City of Marshall; sales and use tax.**

Subd. 1. Authorization. Allows the city to impose any of the taxes included in the section if imposed within two years of the day of final enactment of this section.

Subd. 2. Bonds. Allows the city to issue \$17.29 million in bonds to pay for costs of new and existing facilities of the Minnesota Emergency Response and Industry Training Center and the Southwest Minnesota Regional Amateur Sports Center. The city must hold a referendum to issue the bonds. The bonds are not included in any debt levy on the city and any property taxes needed to pay the bonds are exempt from levy limits.

Subd. 3. Lodging taxes. Allows the city to impose a 1.5 percent local lodging tax without a referendum within a city-defined tax district. The areas included in the tax district need not be contiguous.

Subd. 4. Use of lodging tax revenues. Requires revenues from a tax imposed under subdivision 3 be used for operating costs of the Minnesota Emergency Response and Industry Training Center and the Southwest Minnesota Regional Amateur Sports Center. Revenues may also be used to help pay for bonds issued in subdivision 2.

Subd. 5. Food and beverage taxes. Allows the city to impose up to a 1.5 percent food and beverage tax in the city without a referendum. The general statutory provisions regarding administration, collection, and enforcement apply.

Subd. 6. Use of food and beverages tax. Requires revenues from a tax imposed under subdivision 5 be used for operating costs of the Minnesota Emergency Response and Industry Training Center and the Southwest Minnesota Regional Amateur Sports Center. Revenues may also be used to help pay for bonds issued in subdivision 2.

Subd. 7. Termination of taxes. All the taxes imposed under this section expire at the earlier of (1) 30 years after the tax is first imposed, or (2) when revenues are sufficient to meet the capital operating and administrative costs of the facilities funded under this bill.

7 **Giants Ridge recreation area taxing authority.**

Subd. 1. Additional taxes authorized. Allows the city of Biwabik to impose any of the taxes listed in this section upon approval of the city council and a vote of at least seven members of the IRRRB.

Subd. 2. Use of proceeds. Requires the proceeds of any tax imposed under this section to be deposited in the IRRRB account enterprise fund. The IRRRB by a vote of at least seven members shall spend the money for construction, improvement, and maintenance of public facilities located in the Giants Ridge Recreation area.

Subd. 3. Lodging tax. Allows the city of Biwabek, with the approval of the IRRRB, to impose up to a five percent lodging tax in the Giants Ridge Recreation

Area.

Subd. 4. Admissions and recreation tax. Allows the city of Biwabek, with the approval of the IRRRB, to impose up to a five percent tax on admissions to entertainment and recreational facilities in the Giants Ridge Recreation Area. The rules for imposition, collection, and administration in Minn. Stat. §297A.99, except for subdivisions 2 and 3, apply. If imposed, the tax must exempt the purchase of season tickets or passes.

Subd. 5. Food and beverage tax. Allows the city of Biwabek, with the approval of the IRRRB, to impose up to a one percent on restaurant food and beverage sales in the Giants Ridge Recreation Area. The rules for imposition, collection, and administration in Minn. Stat. §297A.99, subdivisions 2 and 3, apply.

The section is effective the day after final enactment upon local approval as required under statute but the local approval must occur before January 1, 2012.

Article 6: Special Taxes

Overview

Makes various changes to special taxes recommended by the Department of Revenue.

- 1 **Obtaining coverage from an ineligible surplus lines insurer.** Adds a cross-reference to clarify that a surplus lines licensee must collect premium taxes from the insured after obtaining coverage from an ineligible surplus lines insurer, and report the transaction to the commissioner of revenue.
Effective date: Day following final enactment
- 2 **MinnesotaCare estimated tax; hospitals and surgical centers.** Modifies the estimated tax payment threshold for hospitals and surgical centers under the MinnesotaCare taxes to more closely follow the insurance premiums tax. This change eliminates the requirement that the hospital or surgical have been in business for the entire year to qualify for the exemption based on paying \$500 or less in tax in the previous year.
Effective date: Gross revenues received after December 31, 2010
- 3 **MinnesotaCare estimated tax; other taxpayers.** Modifies the exemption from the MinnesotaCare estimated tax payment rules for taxpayers other than hospitals and surgical centers to be consistent with the changes made in section 2.
Effective date: Gross revenues received after December 31, 2010
- 4 **Petroleum tax license cancellation or nonrenewal.** Authorizes the commissioner to cancel or not renew a petroleum distributor's tax license if there is no activity for one year.
Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 5 Weighted average retail price.** Replaces direction for adjusting the weighted average retail price of cigarettes for inflation with a reference to the calculations provided under section 8.
- Effective date:** January 1, 2011
- 6 Cigarette and tobacco products tax license cancellation or nonrenewal.** Authorizes the commissioner to cancel or not renew a cigarette and tobacco products distributor's tax license if there is no activity for one year.
- Effective date:** Day following final enactment
- 7 Sales to nonqualified buyers.** Strikes an obsolete reference to selling contraband cigarettes.
- Effective date:** Day following final enactment
- 8 Cigarette sales tax survey.** Changes the publication date of the annual cigarette price survey, used in adjusting the weighted average retail price of cigarettes for inflation, from May 1 to November 1 with the adjusted rates becoming effective January 1 rather than August 1. The date change is intended to distribute DOR's workload more evenly through the year. Transition language establishes a new tax rate for cigarette sales from August 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011.
- Effective date:** January 1, 2011
- 9 Gross premiums definition.** Clarifies that in determining the surplus lines tax liability, gross premiums include all fees and commissions received by the surplus lines licensee that are related to stamping fees and operating assessments. This definition excludes stamping fees and operating assessments, and reflects the department's application of current law.
- Effective date:** Day following final enactment
- 10 Imposition of surplus lines tax.** Clarifies that the surplus lines tax is imposed on gross premiums paid by the policyholder. This reflects the department's application of current law. Also strikes the exclusion of operating assessments, which is added as an exclusion from gross premiums in section 9.
- Effective date:** Day following final enactment
- 11 Return due dates; general rule; insurance premiums taxes.** Provides a common due date of March 1 for returns from taxpayers who:
- procure insurance from unlicensed foreign companies
 - procure insurance from an ineligible company
- and also for
- joint self insurance plans
 - accountable provider networks, and
 - life insurance companies

The section corrects outdated references, and updates reference consistent with the proposed repeal of return due dates in section 20.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 12** **Return due dates for surplus lines taxes.** Updates obsolete references and modifies language requiring returns to be in the form prescribed by the commissioner to be consistent with other tax statutes.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 13** **Surcharges.** Makes language requiring returns to be in the form prescribed by the commissioner consistent with other tax statutes, and strikes the return due date requirements that are replaced with a general requirement in section 11.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 14** **Surcharges; fire insurance.** Makes language requiring returns to be in the form prescribed by the commissioner consistent with other tax statutes.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 15** **Electronic payment of insurance tax.** Clarifies that the threshold period for determining if a taxpayer must file electronically is a fiscal year ending June 30 and not a calendar year.

Effective date: Payments due in calendar year 2010, based upon liabilities incurred in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009

- 16** **Estimated taxes; requirement to pay.** Corrects an obsolete reference and adds a reference to life insurance companies.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 17** **Definition of tax.** Corrects an obsolete reference and adds a reference to life insurance companies.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 18** **Tax omission in excess of 25 percent.** Authorizes assessment of additional tax within 6½ years of the due date of an insurance premiums tax return if a taxpayer omitted more than 25 percent of the premiums tax or surcharge due. This is consistent with additional tax assessments allowed under the sales tax.

Effective date: Premium taxes due after December 31, 2010

- 19** **Distribution of production tax proceeds.** Replaces a reference to “tax relief area” with “taconite assistance area.”

Effective date: Distributions made the day following final enactment

- 20** **Repealer.** Repeals return due date provisions replaced with general due date requirements in section 11.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

Article 7: Public Finance

Overview

This article:

- Makes a number of minor changes in the JOBZ law (requested by the Department of Revenue)
- Provides expanded short-term borrowing authority for larger watershed districts
- Authorizes the Metropolitan Council to issue \$34.6 million in debt obligations to fund its transit capital improvement plan
- Provides flexibility to allocate more of the state’s private activity bond limit to student loan bonds
- Grants expanded authority to economic development authorities (EDAs) to establish economic development districts
- Allows cities and counties to designate development authorities, such as housing and redevelopment authorities (HRAs) and economic development authorities (EDAs), to implement the energy loan program under chapter 216 (the tax bill passed earlier this session)
- Provides special tax increment financing (TIF) rules for the cities of Ramsey, Wayzata, and Landfall Village

- 1 **Borrowing funds.** Allows watershed districts to have up to \$2,000,000 in loans outstanding. The current limit is \$600,000.
- 2 **Capital improvement definition.** Strikes the exclusion of light rail transit or related activities from the definition of capital improvements in the county capital improvement bonding law.
- 3 **Hennepin County capital improvement definition.** Strikes the exclusion of light rail transit or related activities from the definition of capital improvements in the Hennepin County capital improvement bonding law.
- 4 **Municipality; special assessments.** Provides that counties may impose special assessments for purposes of the energy improvements financing program (authorized in Laws 2010, chapter 216). Chapter 216 authorized counties to establish these programs, but failed to add a reference to the general county authorization provision of the special assessment law.
- 5 **Economic development districts; EDAs.** Eliminates the requirements that economic development districts established by EDAs meet the “blight test” under the TIF law for redevelopment districts. This test requires 70 percent of the parcels in the area to be

occupied by buildings or other improvements and 50 percent of those buildings to be substandard. (Alternative tests allow certain railroad facilities and tank farms to qualify, as well as qualified disaster areas.)

Background information. EDAs can avoid the blight test limitation by exercising powers under the housing and redevelopment authority law to create a redevelopment project, housing development, or housing project (under which a restrictive blight test does not apply), as authorized by section 469.101, subdivision 12. These projects can be used for similar purposes to those of an economic development district under the EDA law.

- 6** **JOBZ time limit for requesting waiver of clawback.** Imposes a 60-day time limit for a business that is no longer eligible for JOBZ to request a waiver of repayment of its JOBZ benefits. In order to receive a waiver of state-paid JOBZ benefits, businesses must request the waiver within 60 days of being notified by the commissioner. In order to receive a waiver of the local property tax exemption, businesses must request the waiver within 60 days after the county auditor mailed the property tax bill.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 7** **Due date of annual JOBZ certification to commissioner of revenue.** Changes the due date for the annual certification of JOBZ compliance by qualified businesses from December 1st to October 15th. This matches the date that JOBZ businesses are required to file their annual JOBZ tax benefits report.

Effective date: 2010 certifications

- 8** **Metropolitan Council, debt authorization for transit.** Authorizes the Metropolitan Council to issue \$34.6 million in debt for the council's transit capital improvement program (e.g., buses, rail transit, and related real property improvements).

Effective the day following final enactment and applies in the seven-county metro area.

- 9** **Entitlement transfers.** Authorizes the three state agencies that are entitlement issuers (Minnesota Housing Finance, Office of Higher Education, and the Rural Finance Authority), under the bond allocation law to transfer their individual issuance authority to each other before December 1 of each year.

- 10** **Allocation procedure.** Increases the total amount of the allocations for student loan bonds to \$25 million per year from \$10 million.

- 11 - 19** **Energy improvements financing program for local governments.** Modifies the program, enacted in chapter 216, that authorizes cities and counties to implement voluntary energy improvements financing programs to allow the local government to designate an HRA, EDA, port authority, or another entity allowed to exercise those powers to administer the program. These programs issue bonds to finance the improvements, make loans to applicants to finance the improvements, and collect repayments through using the special assessment law.

Effective date: Day following final enactment

- 20** **Taconite distribution.** Eliminates the specific cents per ton allocation (enacted in Laws 2010, chapter 216) and replaces it with a sum sufficient allocation to fund the individual projects in the section and repeals language in the section to reflect the governor's item veto

of an allocation in Laws 2010, chapter 347.

- 21 Landfall TIF.** Extends the five-year rule for a TIF district in the city of Landfall Village from a five-year period to eight years.

Background. Under general law, the five-year rule requires the development authority (e.g., the city, HRA, or EDA) to complete the TIF plan’s in-district activities within five years after certification of the district or to issue bonds to finance those activities. After the five-year period, increments allocated to the in-district costs may only be used to pay bonds and contracts entered into during the five years. When these are fully paid off or defeased, the district must be decertified.

Effective date: Local approval by the city of Landfall Village

- 22 City of Ramsey, TIF.** Authorizes the city of Ramsey to establish a TIF district under special rules to help finance a transit station on the Northstar commuter rail line and related infrastructure. This district must be established within a geographic area defined in the bill. It could include parcels from an existing TIF district, if that district is decertified.

Four exceptions to the rules under general law would apply to this TIF district:

- The district qualifies as a redevelopment TIF district without meeting the “blight test” under general law. Under this test, 70 percent of the parcels in the area must be occupied by buildings or other improvements and half of the buildings must be structurally substandard. Qualifying as a redevelopment district will provide the district with a 25-year duration limit.
- The district’s increments maybe spent on public costs related to the transit station, such parking ramps, a pedestrian overpass, and roads. Under general law, 90 percent of the increment from a redevelopment district must be spent on blight correction (e.g., demolishing or rehabbing substandard structures and related development costs).
- The five-year rule is extended to ten years.
- Pooling of increments by the district (i.e., spending on activities outside of the district) is not permitted.

- 23 Wayzata TIF.**

Subd. 1. Delay receipt of increment. Allows the city of Wayzata to delay receipt of increment for Redevelopment TIF District No. 5 by up to six years. General law allows up to a four year delay. Receipt of first increment starts the running of the district’s 25-year duration limit.

Subd. 2. Five-year rule. Extends the five-year rule for the district to ten years.

Subd. 3. Blight test. Deems parcels in redevelopment TIF district No. 5 in the city of Wayzata to meet the blight test for a redevelopment district, if the city or a developer demolished a building on the parcel that it found to be structurally substandard and the city decertifies district No. 5 and requests certification of a new district within ten years after the demolition. This allows the city to decertify the district and create a new redevelopment district with a new 25-year duration limit.

Effective date: Local approval by the city of Wayzata

- 24 **Revisor’s instruction.** Directs the Revisor to codify the taconite production tax project distribution section in the statutes. (This section of law is amended by section 4 of this article.)

Article 8: Property Taxes - Technical Overview

This article clarifies which types of agricultural properties are subject to the later second-half property tax due date of Nov. 15. It also includes miscellaneous technical changes recommended by the Department of Revenue.

- 1 **Limitation (regional library support-grant requirement).** Modifies a provision relating to Department of Education grants to regional library systems if a city or county participating in the system reduces its support of public library services beyond certain limits by correcting two cross-references and clarifying that “credits” and “credit reductions” refers to market value credit reimbursements under section 273.1384 and associated reimbursement-reductions. Effective retroactively to changes in support made in 2009 and thereafter for grants paid in FY10 and thereafter.
- 2 **Erroneous cross-reference correction.** Corrects an erroneous cross-reference which requires the commissioner to periodically revise the Minnesota assessors’ manual. The current cross-reference is to section 270C.06, which refers to the commissioner’s power to promulgate rules. The assessors’ manual is not a rule, therefore what it needs to reference is section 270C.85, which includes the commissioner’s powers and duties with respect to property tax administration. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 3 **Commissioner’s authority to order a reassessment.** Provides that in the event that the assessor does not appraise at least one-fifth of all parcels in the district or county during the year, the commissioner has the discretion to order a reappraisal of all property in the district or county. Under current law the commissioner is mandated to order the reappraisal. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 4 **Statement of exemption.** Requires churches and schools to file a property tax exemption application in order to be exempt. (Section 5 clarifies that this requirement only applies to new churches and schools – ones that were not exempt prior to payable 2012.) Effective for taxes payable in 2012 (assessment year 2011) and thereafter.
- 5 **Filing dates.** Clarifies that the new requirement for churches and schools to file a property tax exemption application in section 4 is only for newly exempt properties, and that subsequent filings will not be required after the initial filing.
- 6 **Wind energy production tax non-filer calculation.** Increases the default tax calculation from 40 percent to 60 percent of nameplate capacity for owners who do not file the required reports with the Department of Revenue by the due date. The current default calculation can result in taxpayers who do not file the required reports paying less tax than if they had complied with the law. Effective for reports due on February 1, 2011, and thereafter.

- 7** **JOBZ wind energy production tax exemption.** Clarifies that the JOBZ exemption from the wind energy production tax is available only if the wind energy production system is owned by a taxpayer who has entered into a business subsidy agreement that covers the area where the system is situated. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 8** **Reimbursement for lost revenue.** Requires reimbursements to school districts for the bovine tuberculosis credit to be made by the commissioner of education rather than the commissioner of revenue. Effective retroactively for taxes payable in 2009 and thereafter.
- 9** **Payment; school districts.** Requires reimbursements to school districts for the bovine tuberculosis credit to be made by the commissioner of education rather than the commissioner of revenue. Effective retroactively for taxes payable in 2009 and thereafter.
- 10** **Truth in taxation (“TNT”).** Clarifies that only a single budget-discussion meeting need be identified on the TNT notices and held after 6:00 p.m. for the affected local taxing authorities. The 2009 law eliminated the requirement that counties, schools, cities over 500 population, regional library authorities, and metropolitan special taxing authorities hold a TNT meeting. However, a new requirement was enacted to require that the TNT notices indicate when each of the affected taxing authorities would hold budget-discussion public meetings, held after 6 p.m., at which the public would be allowed to speak. This implied that the TNT notices must contain information for every meeting at which the authority’s budget and levy would be discussed. The intent was only to require this for one public meeting. Also clarifies that this information need not be provided on the notices with regard to cities that were not required under prior laws to hold a TNT meeting in the first place (those of population 500 or less). Effective retroactively for taxes payable in 2010 and thereafter (TNT notices issued in 2009 and thereafter).
- 11** **Special levies.** Clarifies that the existing limitations on special levies for certificates of indebtedness does not apply to the new special levy authority under section 475.755 for repaying emergency debt certificates issued to cover revenue decreases resulting from unallotments. It also clarifies the new special levy for unallotments by limiting them to the amount of unallotment that occurs in the year the levy is paid. The only time the special levy may be used in the next year is if the unallotment amount was not known by September 1 and the local government did not do a late levy adjustment in January of the year the levy is paid. Effective retroactively for taxes payable in 2010 and thereafter.
- 12** **Property tax levy limit.** Clarifies that certified aid amounts rather than aids after unallotments are used in computing the unit’s levy limit. This ensures that unallotments do not have a “double counting impact” by increasing the local unit’s limited levy authority. A local government must instead levy for aid and credit reimbursement loses due to unallotments through the use of special levy authority. Effective retroactively for taxes payable in 2010 and thereafter.
- 13** **Property tax due date; agricultural property.** (a) Provides that all property classified as class 2a will continue to have a second-half due date of November 15th. Effective for taxes payable in 2012 and thereafter.
- (b) Provides that for any class 2b property that had a due date of November 15 for taxes payable in 2009, the county shall abate any penalty if taxes are received prior to November 15. Effective for taxes payable in 2010 and 2011 only.

- 14 Composition into one item; references.** Relates to installment agreements for paying delinquent property taxes over an extended time. A reference to “timberland” is stricken, and replaced with references to “rural vacant land” and “managed forest land.” These changes were necessary due to the 2008 changes to the property tax classification statute and will not change the properties that qualify for the installment payment option. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 15 Emergency debt certifications.** Adds cross-references and clarifications so that the existing limitations on special levies in section 275.70, subdivision 5, clause (2), do not impinge on the new special levy authority under section 475.755 for repaying emergency debt certificates issued to cover revenue decreases resulting from unallotments. Effective retroactively for taxes payable in 2010 and thereafter.
- 16 City local government aid.** Deletes obsolete language and clarifies provisions related to the use of data available by January 1 of the year the aid is calculated. The effect is to allow levy data not available as of January 1 of the aid determination year to be used in that year to compute each city’s maximum aid increase and decrease amounts under section 477A.013, subdivision 9. These corrections implement what was intended both in 2008 when this language was originally enacted and in 2009 when first changed. Effective for aid payable in 2010 and thereafter.
- 17 Emergency medical services districts.** Corrects an effective date related to emergency medical services special taxing districts. Effective day following final enactment.

Article 9: Conditional Use Deeds

Overview

- Updates and restructures the land classification provisions for tax-forfeited land.
- Modifies the current process and allows county boards the option to elect to use a second process to classify and reclassify tax forfeited lands.
- Defines “authorized public use” for the state and local government for purposes of obtaining a conditional use deed.
- Allows for a reduced price for certain property (i.e., to correct for blight, to develop affordable housing, sliver parcels, to manage drainage and storm water, to create and preserve wetlands, etc.).
- Provides for a reverter clause that expires after 30 years, but not before 2015 to allow for any possible compliance reviews of older deeds. After 15 years of compliance, the use deed can be exchanged with county approval for a quit claim deed.
- Includes an application fee of \$250, with \$150 refunded if the application is denied.
- Removes obsolete language and archaic provisions that have been in statute since 1941.

1 Classification as conservation or nonconservation. Updates land classification provisions for tax-forfeited property. Establishes two processes to classify and reclassify lands.

- (1) Provides a new more structured process (paragraphs (b), (c), and (d)) which includes an open meeting and notification, allowing persons and agencies possessing pertinent information to make or submit comments at the meeting, and designating tracts as assessed and acquired, or may by resolution provide for the subdivision of the tracts into smaller units or groupings deemed advantageous for conservation or sale purposes.
- (2) Updates the current process. Allows the county board to elect to use this process, and if elected, the election is effective for a minimum of five years. Allows the county board to classify or reclassify lands based on available. If lands are within the boundaries of an organized town or incorporated municipality, the classification or reclassification and sale must first be approved by the town board or governing body of the municipality in which lands are located. Requires the county board to follow the open-meeting procedures from process (1) above, if the town or municipality rejects the classification.

2 Conveyance to public entities. Updates the provisions for conveyance of tax-forfeited land to public entities. Adds a new process for withholding lands from sale due to local

government interest in acquisition, replacing what was deleted in section 1.

Changes the existing opportunities for local government acquisition. Under current law, the opportunities are limited to purchasing at full market value for any purpose or receiving free-but-contingent deeds for an authorized public use. (This free “use deed” has caused compliance-related issues and title problems.) The proposal significantly limits the uses for which these use-contingent deeds may be acquired while providing new alternative methods for acquisition that are more tailored to specific needs and purposes.

Paragraph (a) directs the county auditor to withhold a parcel from lease or sale for six months, upon the request from a state agency or governmental subdivision.

Paragraphs (b) to (d) clarify the provisions related to the sale of nonconservation tax-forfeited lands, including the sale to the state agency or governmental subdivision for a reduced price to correct for blighted conditions or for the development of affordable housing. “Market value” is an estimate of the full and actual market value as determined by the county board and does not require a formal appraisal.

Paragraph (e) clarifies the definition of “authorized public use” for the purposes of eligibility for the conveyance of this nonconservation land to a governmental subdivision for which for which a “use deed” may be granted.

The following purposes allow the local government to obtain a use deed for “free”:

- A road, or right-of-way for a road;
- A park that is both available to, and accessible by, the public that contains amenities such as campgrounds, playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, or shelters;
- Trails for walking, bicycling, snowmobiling, or other recreational purposes, along with a reasonable amount of surrounding land maintained in its natural state;
- Transit facilities for buses, light rail transit, commuter rail or passenger rail, including transitways, park-and-ride lots, transit stations, maintenance and garage facilities, and other facilities related to a public transit system;
- Public beaches or boat launches;
- Public parking;
- Civic recreation or conference facilities; and
- Public service facilities such as fire halls, police stations, lift stations, water towers, sanitation facilities, water treatment facilities, and administrative offices.

Two new free options of acquisition are provided:

- Outlots that developers promised but failed to convey to local governments under development agreements (paragraph (f)).
- Parcels that associations of common interest communities were entitled to under a written agreement that forfeited without conveyance (paragraph (g)).

Several new options of acquisition at a price that may be less than market value (as

negotiated between the county and local government) are provided:

- Correcting blight (paragraph (d));
- Developing affordable housing (paragraph (d));
- Creating or preserving wetlands (paragraph(h));
- Managing the drainage or storage of storm water under a management plan (paragraph (h)); and
- Preserving land in its natural state (paragraph (h)).

Paragraph (h) allows for the sale of conservation tax-forfeited lands at less than market value to governmental subdivisions for certain conservation purposes. Requires a restrictive covenant for 30 years. The lands may be reconveyed back to the state, at which point the restrictive covenant ceases. If reconveyed lands are to be sold, the county board may take into account the original amount paid when setting the terms of the sale. If the reconveyed lands are unplatted and located outside of an incorporated municipality, the sale is subject to the approval of the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources if the commissioner determines there is potential mineral use.

Paragraph (i) clarifies that a park and recreation board in a city of the first class qualifies as a governmental subdivision for purposes of this section.

- 3 Conveyance; targeted community lands.** Limits the provisions for the conveyance of lands located within a targeted community to lands in a city of the first class, clarifies that this conveyance is by a quit claim deed rather than a use deed, and clarifies that the conveyance requires a favorable recommendation of the county board. Eliminates the statement of facts requirement.

The name of this area has been changed from “targeted neighborhood” to “targeted community.”

- 4 Deed of conveyance; form; approvals.** Clarifies that any reversion to the state of tax forfeited land that was conveyed for an authorized public purpose (i.e., a conditional use deed) and is not used for that purpose is by operation of law and without requirement of any affirmative act by the state.

- 5 Reverter for failure to use; conveyance to state.** Clarifies the actions that must occur when a local government fails to put the land to the use required in the “use deed”, and specifically clarifies that there is no failure to put the land to the use and no abandonment of that use if that use is contained in a formal plan of that local government.

Deletes language providing that a sale, lease, transfer or other conveyance under Chapter 469 does not constitute a failure or abandonment of use. This provision created some compliance problems for the Department of Revenue. (The new method of acquisition in section 2 relating to blight and economic development is intended as a more focused substitute to this deleted provision.)

Includes a provision that allows a local government to exchange a “use deed” issued on or after January 1, 2007, for a quit claim deed after 15 years if it has demonstrated compliance with the use restriction and received the favorable recommendation of the county board.

For “use deeds” issued before January 1, 2007, the use restriction and possibility of reversion is released on January 1, 2022, if the county board records a document to that effect.

Nullifies the use restriction on the later of:

- (1) January 1, 2015;
- (2) 30 years from the date the deed was acknowledged; or
- (3) upon final resolution of an appeal initiated prior to January 1, 2015,

whereby (i) creating a 30-year expiration on all “use deeds,” but (ii) allowing counties and the Department of Revenue the possibility to pursue compliance action through 2014 on existing deeds.

- 6 Conditional use deed fees.** Establishes an application fee of \$250 for “use deeds,” of which \$150 is refunded if the application is denied. The proceeds must be deposited in a Department of Revenue revolving fund and are appropriated to the Commissioner of Revenue for making the \$150 refunds and for administering the conditional use deed law.
- 7 Conveyance; form.** Provides that the instruments of conveyance are to be on a form approved by the Attorney General, that the instruments are prima facie evidence, and that the execution and issuance of the conveyance complies with the applicable laws. These provisions assure persons examining the real estate records that the various requirements were met.
- 8 Conservation lands; county board supervision.** Clarifies the process for conservation lands, including that they must not be conveyed or sold, unless they are (1) reclassified; (2) conveyed to a governmental subdivision; (3) released from the trust in favor of the taxing district; or (4) conveyed or sold under the authority of another general or special law. Deletes obsolete language. Recodifies the provision for deposit in the general fund of revenue from the sale of timber, lease of crops of hay, or other lands under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of natural resources credited.
- 9 Nonconservation lands; appraisal and sale.** Strikes a provision on the classification of land that is recodified in section 1 of the bill.
- 10 Sale: method, requirements, effects.** Includes cross-references due to changes in other sections.
- 11 County sales; notice, purchase price, disposition.** Clarifies that the ability to add reappraised lands to a sale only applies to nonconservation lands.
- 12 City sales; alternate procedures.** Allows for the sale of irregular parcels that cannot be improved because of noncompliance with local ordinances without being adjoined to a neighboring parcel to be sold for less than its appraised value.
- 13 Notice; public hearing for use change.** Requires notice to surrounding landowners within 400 feet of a parcel and a public hearing if a governmental subdivision intends to change the use of a parcel acquired by a use deed.
- 14 Repealer.** Repeals obsolete provisions:

- section 282.01, subdivisions 9, 10, and 11; and
- section 383A.76 (inconsistent provisions for cities in Ramsey County).

Article 10: Miscellaneous

Overview

This article:

- Requires bills creating new tax expenditures to include policy goals and standards for measuring achievement of the goals and directs the Department of Revenue to recommend to the legislature a process for identifying and providing a systematic review of tax expenditures.
- Modifies penalty abatement authority for disaster areas.
- Imposes a \$50 fee on entering into a tax payment agreement with the Department of Revenue.
- Allows lawful gambling proceeds to be used for utility costs for the headquarters of a veterans' or fraternal organization, regardless of whether the organization owns or leases the entire building in which the headquarters are located.
- Makes appropriations for additional aid to Ottertail county for flood-related road repair expenses, for grants to Chisago County and the city of Princeton, and for improvements to the Department of Revenue's facility in Ely. [*The appropriations for grants to Chisago County and the City of Princeton, and for improvements to the Department of Revenue's facility in Ely were line-item vetoed by the Governor.*]

1 Tax expenditure bills. Requires bills that create or renew tax expenditures contain a statement of intent and a standard for measuring whether the intent is met.

Effective date: Tax expenditures enacted after July 1, 2010.

2 Penalty abatements for disaster or emergency areas. Expands the commissioner's authority to abate penalties for late filing and late payments to include taxpayers located in areas declared to be in a state of emergency by either the president or the governor. Current law limits the abatement authority to taxpayers in a presidentially declared disaster area.

3 Fee for payment agreements. Requires the commissioner to charge a \$50 fee for

- entering into a payment agreement;
- entering into a new payment agreement after default on a prior agreement; or
- renegotiating the terms of an existing payment agreement.

Effective date: Payment agreements entered into or renegotiated after June 30, 2010

- 4 **Permitted uses of lawful gambling moneys.** Allows lawful gambling proceeds to be used to pay for the utilities (electricity, heating, sewer, and water) of a building, a portion of which is used as the primary headquarters of a licensed veteran or fraternal organization. Current law requires a building to be wholly owned or leased by the organization for utility payments to qualify as a permitted use of these moneys.
- 5 **Tax expenditure review report.** Requires the Department of Revenue to report to the legislature by February 15, 2011, suggesting a process for periodic review and sunset or extension of tax expenditures. In addition to a recommended process, the report must define tax base and tax expenditure for each tax type and recommend additional information not currently included in the tax expenditure report to evaluate tax expenditures, not only on their stated goals, but on the general tax principles of transparency, simplicity, equity, stability, compliance, tax competitiveness, and conformity to corresponding federal taxes and multi-state agreements.
- 6 **Ottertail County; additional aid.** Appropriates \$200,000 to the commissioner of revenue for an additional aid payment to Ottertail County to compensate for the cost of road and infrastructure repair due to flooding. The payment is to be made at the same time as the December 2010, LGA payment.
- 7 **Appropriation; Chisago County.** Provides a one-time appropriation to the commissioner of commerce to make a \$100,000 grant to Chisago County for development of a carbon-neutral industrial park that received federal stimulus funding in 2009. [*This appropriation was line-item vetoed by the Governor.*]
- 8 **Appropriation; city of Princeton.** Provides a one-time appropriation to the commissioner of employment and economic development to make a \$100,000 grant to the city of Princeton for engineering and preliminary design of a biomass facility and industrial park improvements for renewable energy development. [*This appropriation was line-item vetoed by the Governor.*]
- 9 **Appropriation; commissioner of revenue.** Provides a one-time appropriation to the commissioner of revenue for improvements at the Department of Revenue's Ely facility. [*This appropriation was line-item vetoed by the Governor.*]
- 10 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$60,000 in FY 2011 to the commissioner of revenue for the tax expenditure review report required in section 5 of this article.