

days before the hearing, and posted notice in the courthouse at least 20 days before the hearing shall be given of the hearing.

(i) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (c) to the contrary, the St. Louis County auditor may, at the discretion of the county board, sell timber to the party who bids the highest price for all the several kinds of timber, as provided for sales by the commissioner of natural resources under section 90.14. Bids offered over and above the appraised price need not be applied proportionately to the appraised price of each of the different species of timber.

(j) In lieu of any payment or deposit required in paragraph (b), as directed by the county board and under terms set by the county board, the county auditor may accept an irrevocable bank letter of credit in the amount equal to the amount otherwise determined in paragraph (b); ~~exclusive of the down payment required for an auction sale in paragraph (b).~~ If an irrevocable bank letter of credit is provided under this paragraph, at the written request of the purchaser, the county may periodically allow the bank letter of credit to be reduced by an amount proportionate to the value of timber that has been harvested and for which the county has received payment. The remaining amount of the bank letter of credit after a reduction under this paragraph must not be less than 20 percent of the value of the timber purchased. If an irrevocable bank letter of credit or cash deposit is provided for the down payment required in paragraph (b), and no cutting of timber has taken place on the contract for which a letter of credit has been provided, the county may allow the transfer of the letter of credit to any other contract issued to the contract holder by the county under this chapter to which the contract holder requests in writing that it be credited.

Sec. 14. REPEALER.

Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 90.01, subdivision 9; and 90.041, subdivisions 3 and 4, are repealed.

Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This act is effective July 1, 2005.

Presented to the governor May 31, 2005

Signed by the governor June 3, 2005, 8:25 a.m.

CHAPTER 142—H.F.No. 986

An act relating to economic development; redefining low-income area for the purpose of the urban initiative program; amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 116M.14, subdivision 4.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 116M.14, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

Subd. 4. **LOW-INCOME AREA.** "Low-income area" means:

(1) Minneapolis, St. Paul; and;

(2) those cities in the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2, that have an average income that is below 80 percent of the median income for a four-person family as of the latest report by the United States Census Bureau; and

(3) those cities in the metropolitan area, which contain two or more contiguous census tracts in which the average family income is less than 80 percent of the median family income for the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Presented to the governor May 31, 2005

Signed by the governor June 1, 2005, 3:19 p.m.

CHAPTER 143—H.F.No. 2279

An act relating to the city of Cologne; providing exemption to wetland replacement requirements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **WETLAND REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENT EXEMPTION.**

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, due to the construction of a trail in or near the city of Cologne on type I and type III wetlands in the area between the improved portion of marked State Highway 284 and Benton Lake, wetland replacement is eligible for replacement under Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.222, subdivision 1, paragraph (l).

Presented to the governor May 31, 2005

Signed by the governor June 2, 2005, 2:30 p.m.

CHAPTER 144—H.F.No. 973

An act relating to employee relations; modifying state employment provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 43A.10, subdivision 6a; 43A.15, subdivision 3; 43A.31, by adding a subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 43A.10, subdivision 6a, is amended to read:

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.