

CHAPTER 298

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MINING

298.01 MINING OR PRODUCING ORES. Subdivision 1. Every person engaged in the business of mining or producing iron ore or other ores in this state shall pay to the state of Minnesota an occupation tax equal to 15.5 percent of the valuation of all ores except taconite, semi-taconite and iron sulphides mined or produced after December 31, 1971. Said tax shall be in addition to all other taxes provided for by law and shall be due and payable from such person on or before June 15 of the year next succeeding the calendar year covered by the report thereon to be filed as hereinafter provided.

Subd. 2. Every person engaged in the business of producing or mining taconite, semi-taconite and iron sulphides in this state shall pay to the state an occupation tax equal to 15 percent of the valuation of all taconite, semi-taconite and iron sulphides mined or produced after December 31, 1970. The tax shall be in addition to all other taxes provided for by law and shall be due and payable from such person on or before June 15 of the year next succeeding the calendar year covered by the report thereon to be filed as hereinafter provided.

[1921 c 223 s 1; Ex1937 c 85 s 1; 1939 c 356 s 1; 1941 c 544 s 1; 1943 c 590 s 1, 2; 1945 c 448 s 1; 1947 c 542 s 1; Ex1955 c 2 art 2 s 1; Ex1957 c 1 art 4 s 1; Ex1959 c 70 art 8 s 1; Ex1971 c 31 art 4 s 1; 1973 c 631 s 1, 2] (2373, 2373-1)

298.011 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 31 art 4 s 5]

298.02 LOW GRADE ORE. Subdivision 1. **Credit.** For the purpose of increasing employment and the utilization of low-grade, underground, and high labor cost ores any taxpayer on whom a tax is imposed by reason of the provisions of section 298.01, subdivisions 1 and 2, shall be allowed a credit against the occupation

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tax as computed in said subdivisions because of the mining or production of ore from any mine, in an amount calculated as follows:

(a) In the case of underground mines or that tonnage of merchantable ore produced in open pit mines in the year in question which tonnage has resulted from beneficiation at an ore beneficiation plant within the state by jigging, heavy media, cyclone process, roasting, drying by artificial heat, sintering, magnetic separation, flotation, agglomeration or any process requiring fine grinding, ten percent of that part of the cost of labor employed by said mine or in the beneficiation of all ore mined or produced in said calendar year in excess of 70 cents and not in excess of 90 cents per ton of the merchantable ore produced during the year at said mine, and 15 percent of that part of the cost of such labor in excess of 90 cents per ton; in the case of any other tonnage produced at said mine or in the case of other mines, ten percent of the amount by which the average cost per ton of labor employed at said mine, or in the beneficiation of such ore at or near the mine, exceeds 80 cents, but does not exceed \$1.05, plus 15 percent of the amount by which such average labor cost per ton exceeds \$1.05, multiplied by the number of tons of ore produced at said mine, not exceeding 100,000 tons, but this 100,000 tons or less shall be first reduced by any tonnage described in the first part of this subparagraph; provided, however, that in no event shall the credit allowed hereunder be in excess of three fourths of eleven percent, as applied to underground and taconite or semi-taconite operations, and six-tenths of eleven percent as applied to all other operations, of the valuation of the ore used in computing the tax under the provisions of section 298.01. The expression "merchantable ore produced" as used herein means ores which as mined or as mined and beneficiated, are ready for shipment as a merchantable product. The provisions of this subparagraph (a) shall be applicable to all ores mined or produced subsequent to December 31, 1956.

(b) The aggregate amount of all credits allowed under this subdivision to all mines shall not exceed six and two-tenths percent of the aggregate amount of occupation taxes imposed under section 298.01, subdivision 1, assessed against all mines in the state for said year prior to the deduction of such credits, provided; that after December 31, 1954, labor credits to underground mines or taconite or semi-taconite operations shall not be subject to such percentage limitation and both the occupation taxes of such underground mines or taconite or semi-taconite operations and the labor credits allowed thereto, shall be excluded in calculating such percentage limitations. At the time of his final determination of occupation tax pursuant to section 298.09, subdivision 3, the commissioner shall reduce the credit otherwise allowable to each mine hereunder by such equal percentage as will bring the total within such limitation. If an equal percentage reduction is made in the labor credits of mines pursuant to this subparagraph (b) at the time of certification to the commissioner of finance as set forth in section 298.10, the same percentage will be used where changes are made pursuant to section 298.09, subdivision 4, subsequent to June 1. Also if no reduction is made at the time of certification to the commissioner of finance on or before June 1, pursuant to this subdivision and section 298.10, no reduction will be made subsequent to June 1, due to changes made pursuant to section 298.09, subdivision 4. This subparagraph (b) shall apply to occupation tax calculations in calendar years subsequent to December 31, 1952.

Subd. 2. Credit in lieu of cost of labor. In lieu of the credit above provided, at the election of the taxpayer, there may be allowed a credit against the occupation tax assessed against any mine of two-thirds of one percent of the amount of such tax for each one percent of the total production of iron ore from said mine which is converted into pig iron, sponge iron, or powdered iron, within the limits of the State of Minnesota. The taxpayer shall make such election at the time of filing the occupation tax return for said mine.

Subd. 3. If declared unconstitutional. In the event that the credit provided for in subdivision 2 is found unconstitutional by any court of last resort, then the taxpayer shall be limited to the labor credit herein provided in subdivision 1.

[1939 c 356 s 3; 1941 c 544 s 3; 1943 c 590 s 3; 1945 c 445 s 1; 1947 c 541 s 1; 1949 c 639 s 1; 1951 c 664 s 1; 1953 c 646 s 1; Ex1955 c 2 art 2 s 2; 1957 c 856 s 1; Ex1959 c 70 art 8 s 3; 1963 c 232 s 1; Ex1971 c 31 art 4 s 2; 1973 c 492 s 14] (2373-2)

298.025 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 31 art 4 s 5]

298.026 CREDIT FOR RESEARCH, EXPERIMENTATION AND EXPLORATION. A tax credit shall be allowed to each taxpayer against the taxes payable

by such taxpayer as computed each year under Minnesota Statutes 1961, Sections 298.01, 298.011, and 298.02, for the cost of all research, experimentation, pilot plant tests and exploration work performed in Minnesota in such year for the express purpose of furthering the discovery, development, or beneficiation of Minnesota iron ore or other Minnesota ores.

Such credit shall be computed by applying to such costs and allowances the weighted average net effective rate of all the occupation taxes applicable to such taxpayer for such year imposed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1961, Sections 298.01 and 298.011, after the application of the credits against such occupation taxes allowed under Minnesota Statutes 1961, Section 298.02, Subdivision 1, but before the application of the credit herein provided.

Any such credit shall be applied against the tax for the year for which such credit is computed except that any such credit in excess of such tax shall be applied in like manner in the next year and thereafter from year to year, but not exceeding two years, until the entire credit has been so applied.

The determination as to what type of costs will qualify under this law, and the amount allowable, will be made by the commissioner of revenue who may use the services of the University of Minnesota School of Mines and Metallurgy which is hereby established as a technical consultant to the commissioner for the purposes of this section.

[1963 c 610 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.027 COSTS OF MINING EXCEEDING VALUE OF ORE TAX CREDIT.

A tax credit shall be allowed to each taxpayer against the taxes computed under this chapter where the allowable costs for any mine determined under Minnesota Statutes 1961, Section 298.03 except taconite and semi-taconite exceed the value of the ore at the place where the same is brought to the surface of the earth. The said allowable costs shall not include amounts attributable to or payable by reason of the termination of mining operations.

The credit shall be computed by applying the tax rates specified in Minnesota Statutes 1961, Section 298.01 and Section 298.011 to the excess of such deductions over such value, but limited to; in the case of open pit iron ore mines, 53.68 percent of the credit so computed and in the case of underground mines, 42.10 percent of the credit so computed.

Such credit shall be allowed for the year in which such excess occurs.

[1963 c 687 s 1]

298.03 VALUE OF ORE; HOW ASCERTAINED. The valuation of iron or other ores for the purposes of determining the amount of tax to be paid under the provisions of section 298.01 shall be ascertained by subtracting from the value of such ore, at the place where the same is brought to the surface of the earth, such value to be determined by the commissioner of revenue:

(1) The reasonable cost of supplies used and labor performed at the mine in separating the ore from the ore body, including hoisting, elevating, or conveying the same to the surface of the earth;

(2) If the ore is taken from an open pit mine, an amount for each ton of ore mined or produced during the year equal to the cost of removing the overburden, divided by the number of tons of ore uncovered, the number of tons of ore uncovered in each case to be determined by the commissioner of revenue;

(3) If the ore is taken from an underground mine, an amount for each ton of ore mined or produced during the year equal to the cost of sinking and constructing shafts and running drifts, divided by the number of tons of ore that can be advantageously taken out through such shafts and drifts, the number of tons of ore than can be advantageously taken out in each case to be determined by the commissioner of revenue;

(4) The amount of royalties paid on the ore mined or produced during the year;

(5) A percentage of the ad valorem taxes levied for such year against the realty in which the ore is deposited equal to the percentage that the tons mined or produced during such year bears to the total tonnage in the mine;

(6) In the case of taconite, semi-taconite and iron sulphide operations, the tax payable under sections 298.24 and 298.35, on the concentrates produced in said year and any taxes paid under Laws 1955, Chapters 391, 429, 514, 576 or 540, or any other law imposing on such taconite operations a specific tax for school or other governmental purposes;

(7) The amount or amounts of all the foregoing subtractions shall be ascertained

and determined by the commissioner of revenue. Deductions for interest on plant investment shall not exceed the greater of (a) four percent of book value, or (b) the amount actually paid but not exceeding six percent of book value. No subtraction shall be allowed for shrinkage of iron ore, except that which can be measured in a manner determined by the commissioner of revenue. In no case shall the shrinkage subtraction exceed one fourth of one percent of the value of the ore.

[1921 c 223 s 2; 1925 c 307 s 1; Ex1937 c 85 s 2; 1957 c 365 s 1; 1965 c 184 s 1; 1974 c 556 s 27] (2374)

298.031 VALUATION OF ORE. Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** The following words and phrases when used in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subdivision:

(1) "Commissioner" means commissioner of revenue.

(2) "Discount" means the difference in excess of 50 cents between the taxpayer's average actual bona fide selling price per ton of iron ore arrived at in open and competitive sales during the taxable year and the value of such iron ore together with the value of ores produced and not sold in bona fide sales, as determined by the commissioner pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1957, Chapter 298, Section 298.03, and other applicable provisions, if any.

Subd. 2. Value of certain ore; how ascertained. (1) The taxpayer shall be given a credit in each taxable year upon the occupation tax assessed in such year under Minnesota Statutes 1957, Chapter 298, against a given mine after credit for labor credits has been given, in an amount equal to the occupation tax under said chapter 298 upon an amount produced by multiplying the number of tons of ore sold at a discount by the amount of such discount.

(2) The aggregate amount of all credits allowed under this section to all mines shall not exceed one percent of the aggregate amount of all occupation taxes imposed under section 298.01, subdivision 1, assessed against all mines, except taconite and semi-taconite mines, in the state for said year prior to the deduction of the credit allowed by this section.

(3) The amount of the foregoing subtraction shall be ascertained and determined by the commissioner.

Subd. 3. Credit, application. The credit provided by this section shall not be applicable with respect to any mine operated by a mining company or an operating agent

(a) if the net marketable tonnage of iron ores, exclusive of taconite and semi-taconite, produced from all mines operated by such mining company or operating agent exceeds seven percent of the net marketable tonnage of iron ores, exclusive of taconite and semi-taconite, produced in this state during the year for which the tax is being determined, or

(b) if such mining company or operating agent is also engaged in the manufacture of steel, or

(c) if any company manufacturing steel has an interest, either directly or indirectly, through stock ownership in such mining company or operating agent.

The taxpayer shall have the burden of proving its right to the credit provided by this section.

Subd. 4. Non-severability. In the event that any of the provisions of subdivision 3 are held to be unconstitutional, this entire section shall be void and of no effect.

[Ex1961 c 66 s 1; 1969 c 795 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.04 ORES SUBJECT TO TAX. All ores mined or produced subsequent to December 31, 1936, shall be subject to the provisions of sections 298.01, 298.03, and 298.04.

[Ex. 1937 c. 85 s. 3] (2374-1)

298.05 MINING COMPANIES TO REPORT ANNUALLY. Every person engaged in such mining or production of ores shall, annually, on or before the first day of March, file with the commissioner of revenue, under oath, a correct report, in such form and containing such information as he may require, covering the preceding calendar year.

[1921 c 223 s 3; 1925 c 307 s 2; 1973 c 582 s 3] (2375)

298.06 COMMISSIONER TO DETERMINE TAX. Upon receipt by the commissioner of revenue of such report he shall determine, from such information as he may possess or obtain, whether the same is correct or otherwise; and, if found

correct, he shall, on or before May first, find and determine therefrom the amount of tax due from such person.

[1921 c 223 s 4; 1973 c 582 s 3] (2376)

298.07 WHEN REPORT INCORRECT COMMISSIONER TO FIX AMOUNT OF TAX. Upon receipt by the commissioner of revenue of such report, he shall determine, from such information as he may possess or obtain, whether the same is correct or otherwise; and, if found incorrect, from such information as he may possess or obtain, he shall find and determine the amount of tax due from such person.

[1921 c 223 s 5; 1973 c 582 s 3] (2381)

298.08 PROCEDURE WHEN NO REPORT IS FILED; PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT. If any person subject to sections 298.01, 298.03, 298.05 to 298.16, and 298.21 shall fail to make the report provided for in section 298.05 at the time and in the manner therein provided, the commissioner of revenue shall in such case, upon such information as he may possess or obtain, ascertain the kind and amount of ore mined or produced, together with the valuation thereof, and thereon find and determine the amount of the tax due from such person. There shall be added thereto a penalty for failure to report, which penalty shall equal ten percent of the tax imposed and be treated as a part thereof.

[1921 c 223 s 6; 1973 c 582 s 3] (2382)

298.09 NOTICES; HEARINGS; DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF TAX IS FINAL; CERTIORARI. Subdivision 1. On or before May 1 in each year, the commissioner of revenue shall send to each person subject to an occupation tax under the provisions of Laws 1921, Chapter 223, as amended, a notice of the amount of the tax so determined to be due from him. Said notice shall be sent by certified mail and directed to him at the address given in the report filed by him, and, if no report has been filed or no address given, then at such address as the commissioner of revenue may be able to ascertain; but the validity of the tax shall not be affected by the failure of the commissioner of revenue to mail such notice or the failure of the person subject to the tax to receive it.

Subd. 2. On the first secular day following the fourteenth day of May, the commissioner of revenue shall hold a hearing at his office in St. Paul which may be adjourned from day to day. Every person subject to such tax may at such hearing present evidence and argument on any matter bearing upon the validity or correctness of the tax determined to be due from him, and the commissioner of revenue shall review his determination of such tax.

Subd. 3. After such hearing the commissioner of revenue shall make his order either affirming his determination of the tax due from the person so appearing or modifying such determination as he shall deem just and equitable, and, upon the making and filing of such order, said determination shall, except as hereinafter provided, become final and conclusive. The determination of the amount of tax due from any person not appearing at such hearing shall, except as hereinafter provided, become final and conclusive on the second secular day following the fourteenth day of May without further order. The determination by the commissioner of revenue of the amount of any tax due hereunder shall, except as hereinafter provided, be subject to review only on a writ of certiorari issued out of the supreme court on petition therefor presented to said court by the person subject to the tax on or before July first next following the determination of the tax.

Subd. 4. If the amount of tax determined by the commissioner is subsequently found to be erroneous, the commissioner may, at any time within three years from the date the tax is certified as provided in section 298.10, redetermine the amount thereof. No such redetermination shall be made increasing the tax unless the person from whom the additional amount is due is given ten days written notice thereof and an opportunity to be heard thereon. If an order is made increasing the tax, the same proceedings shall be had as provided for occupation taxes originally determined and certified. Any person who has paid an occupation tax may apply to the commissioner within the time herein limited for a redetermination of the tax, and if the commissioner determines that the tax has been overpaid, he shall make and file an order determining the amount of such overpayment, and credit it against occupation taxes otherwise payable by the person who has overpaid the amount as so determined. If the tax is increased, interest at six percent per

annum from the date payment should have been made shall be determined and paid; if the tax is reduced, interest at the rate of three percent per annum from the date of overpayment shall be allowed.

[1921 c 223 s 7; 1925 c 307 s 3; 1943 c 657 s 1; 1963 c 525 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3] (2383)

298.10 COMMISSIONER TO ASSESS TAXES AND BILL PERSONS LIABLE FOR TAX. The commissioner of revenue shall enter on his records the amount of taxes found and determined by him to be due from any person, as herein provided; and, on or before June first, shall make an assessment and send a statement to the person subject to the tax, which tax shall be payable to the commissioner of revenue as provided in this chapter and deposited in the state treasury.

[1921 c 223 s 8; 1925 c 307 s 4; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1973 c 631 s 3] (2384)

298.11 TIME FOR PAYMENT OF TAXES; PENALTIES. In case the tax provided for in sections 298.01 to 298.16 is not paid before the fifteenth day of June of the year when due and payable, a penalty of ten percent thereof shall immediately accrue; and thereafter one percent per month shall be added to such tax and penalty while such tax remains unpaid.

[1921 c. 223 s. 9; 1925 c. 307 s. 5] (2385)

298.12 COMMISSIONER'S ASSESSMENT PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF AMOUNT DUE. The assessment of the commissioner of revenue for the tax, or tax and penalties, imposed by the provisions of sections 298.01 to 298.11, shall be prima facie evidence, in any court where proceedings may be brought for its enforcement, that the amount therein stated is due the state from the person indicated.

[1921 c 223 s 10; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1973 c 631 s 4] (2377)

298.13 ATTORNEY GENERAL TO COLLECT UNPAID TAXES. On July first each year, the commissioner of revenue shall deliver to the attorney general a certification of all unpaid taxes imposed under sections 298.01 to 298.16, and he shall bring an action thereon in the district court of Ramsey county, or of the county where such ores are mined or produced, for the amount of such taxes, together with interest, penalties, and costs. The judgment of the court, when so obtained, shall bear interest at the rate of one percent per month and be enforceable in the manner provided by law for the enforcement of judgments obtained in civil actions.

[1921 c 223 s 11; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1973 c 631 s 5] (2378)

298.14 PENALTY FOR FALSE RETURN. Any person who, for the purpose of evading the payment of the tax hereinbefore provided, or any part thereof, makes any false return or report under section 298.05 shall pay to the state a penalty of 50 percent of the amount of the tax; and any one who shall knowingly make or sign, under oath, any false return of the kind and amount of ores produced therefrom, and of the value thereof, or who shall knowingly submit any other false information required by sections 298.01 to 298.16, shall be deemed guilty of perjury; and, upon conviction, punished therefor as provided by law.

[1921 c. 223 s. 12] (2379)

298.15 RECORDS OF COMPANIES TO BE OPEN TO INSPECTION. All books, way-bills, inventories, correspondence, and memoranda relating to or used in the transaction of the business of any person owning or operating any such mine shall, on demand by the commissioner of revenue, or his authorized representatives, be open to inspection or examination. If any one having charge, control, or possession of these papers and books of such person shall neglect or refuse, on demand of the commissioner of revenue, or his authorized representatives, access to these papers and books, he shall be deemed guilty of a gross misdemeanor; and, upon conviction, punished therefor as provided by law.

[1921 c 223 s 13; 1973 c 582 s 3] (2380)

298.16 TAXES TO BE CREDITED TO GENERAL FUND. All taxes imposed and collected under the provisions of sections 298.01 to 298.15 shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

[1921 c 223 s 14; 1969 c 399 s 49] (2386)

298.17 OCCUPATION TAXES TO BE APPORTIONED. All occupation taxes which shall become due and payable on May 1, 1924, and subsequent thereto, from persons, copartnerships, companies, joint stock companies, corporations, and associations, however or for whatever purpose organized, engaged in the business of mining or producing iron ore or other ores, when collected shall be apportioned and

distributed in accordance with the Constitution of the state of Minnesota, Article 9, Section 1A, in the manner following: 90 percent shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the general fund of which four ninths shall be used for the support of elementary and secondary schools; and ten percent of the proceeds of the tax imposed by this section shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the general fund for the general support of the university.

[1923 c 402 s 1; 1961 c 561 s 9; 1969 c 399 s 42] (2391)

298.18 TAXES TO GO TO GENERAL FUND IF SECTION 298.17 INVALID. If for any reason section 298.17 shall be held to be invalid, then all such taxes, when collected, shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

[1923 c 402 s 2; 1969 c 399 s 49] (2392)

298.19 ORE CARRYING ROADS TO REPORT TO COMMISSIONER. It shall be the duty of every railway company or other common carrier receiving iron ore for original shipment from any mine in this state to make report, in writing, delivered or deposited in the mail addressed to the commissioner of revenue, at St. Paul, Minnesota, on or before the tenth day of May and November, each and every year, the amounts in tons received for shipment, as provided for in sections 298.19 and 298.20, up to and inclusive of the last day of April and October, of each year, setting forth the total amount, in tons, received for shipment from each such mine and of the amounts of tons received for shipment since the last date required to be included in the last report, and whether received from open pit, pocket, or stock-pile, stating the amount, in tons, so received from each of such sources. The report shall also show the place where the ore was received for shipment and the name of the shipper in each case.

[1923 c 354 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3] (2389)

298.20 VIOLATION A GROSS MISDEMEANOR. Any railway company or other common carrier which fails, neglects, or refuses to make any report required by section 298.19 shall be deemed guilty of a gross misdemeanor; and, upon conviction, fined not exceeding \$5,000 for each such offense.

[1923 c. 354 s. 2] (2390)

298.21 PERSON. For all purposes of sections 298.01 to 298.16, the word "person" shall be construed to include individuals, copartnerships, companies, joint stock companies, corporations, and all associations, however and for whatever purpose organized.

[1921 c. 223 s. 16] (2388)

298.22 IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION. Subdivision 1. On and after July 1, 1969, there is hereby appropriated from the general fund for the purposes hereinafter set forth, five percent of all amounts paid and credited to said fund from the proceeds of taxes paid under the provisions of sections 298.01 to 298.21. The office of commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation is hereby created. The commissioner shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate for a four year term which shall coincide with the term of the governor until his successor is duly appointed and has qualified. The governor may remove the commissioner at any time for cause after notice and hearing. In case of a vacancy, the governor may appoint a commissioner, who shall take office immediately and shall carry on the duties of the office until the next session of the legislature, when his appointment shall be submitted to the senate for approval. The salary of the commissioner, who shall be in unclassified service, shall be paid from the amounts appropriated by this section; provided, that such salary shall be reduced by such amount as he may receive from other funds, and the commissioner may hold such other positions or appointments as are not incompatible with his duties as commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation. The commissioner may appoint a deputy commissioner who shall serve in the unclassified service at the pleasure of the commissioner. All expenses of the commissioner, including the payment of such assistance as may be necessary, shall be paid out of the amounts appropriated by this section.

When the commissioner shall determine that distress and unemployment exists or may exist in the future in any county by reason of the removal of natural resources or a possibly limited use thereof in the future and the decrease in employment resulting therefrom, now or hereafter, he may use such amounts of the appropriation made to him in this section as he may determine to be necessary and

proper in the development of the remaining resources of said county and in the vocational training and rehabilitation of its residents. For the purposes of this section, "development of remaining resources" includes, but is not limited to, the promotion of tourism.

Subd. 2. There is hereby created the iron range resources and rehabilitation commission, consisting of seven members, three of whom shall be state senators appointed by the committee on committees of the senate, and three of whom shall be representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, their terms of office to commence on May 1, 1943, and continue until January 3rd, 1945, or until their successors are appointed and qualified. Their successors shall be appointed each two years in the same manner as the original members were appointed, in January of every second year, commencing in January, 1945. The seventh member of said commission shall be the commissioner of natural resources of the state of Minnesota. Vacancies on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original members were chosen. All expenditures and projects made by the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation shall first be submitted to said iron range resources and rehabilitation commission which shall recommend approval or disapproval or modification of expenditures and projects for rehabilitation purposes as provided by this section, and the method, manner, and time of payment of all said funds proposed to be disbursed shall be first approved or disapproved by said commission. The commission shall biennially make its report to the governor and the legislature on or before November 15 of each even numbered year. The expenses of said commission shall be paid by the state of Minnesota from the funds raised pursuant to this section.

Subd. 3. Whenever the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation has made determinations required by subdivision 1 and has determined that distress and unemployment exists or may exist in the future in any county by reason of the removal of the natural resources or a possible limited use thereof in the future and the decrease in employment resulting therefrom and he deems that the acquirement of real estate or personal property is necessary and proper in the development of the remaining resources, he may acquire such property or interests therein by gift, purchase or lease. If after such property is acquired it is necessary in the judgment of the commissioner to acquire a right of way for access to projects operated on property acquired, by gift, purchase or lease, said right of way may be acquired by condemnation in the manner provided by law.

Subd. 4. Whenever property has been granted and conveyed to the state of Minnesota in accordance with an agreement made by the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation and the commissioner of administration for the necessary and proper development of the remaining resources of any distressed county, such grants, and conveyances or leases are hereby accepted in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof.

Subd. 5. In order to carry out the terms and provisions of this section, the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation and the commissioner of administration may lease any property acquired hereunder for a term not to exceed 20 years upon such terms as they may determine, provided that such property shall not be leased to any person in such a manner as to constitute a direct contribution of working capital to a business enterprise. Such lease may provide that in the event the property is ever sold by the state to such lessee, the lessee may obtain a credit on the purchase price covering the rentals paid under his lease or any renewals thereof and that said real estate can be conveyed by the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation and the commissioner of administration and the said commissioners are hereby authorized to make such conveyances.

[1941 c 544 s 4; 1943 c 590 s 4; 1949 c 739 s 22; 1951 c 713 s 31; 1957 c 882 s 1; Ex1959 c 49 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 43; 1969 c 399 s 49; 1969 c 1129 art 8 s 9; 1969 c 1129 art 10 s 2; 1971 c 25 s 59; 1973 c 613 s 1; 1974 c 406 s 67]

298.221 RECEIPTS FROM CONTRACTS; APPROPRIATION. All moneys paid to the state of Minnesota pursuant to the terms of any contract entered into by the state under authority of Laws 1941, Chapter 544, Section 4, or of said section as amended and any fees which may, in the discretion of the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation, be charged in connection with any project pursuant to that section as amended, shall be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the iron range resources and rehabilitation commission account in the special revenue fund and are hereby appropriated for the purposes of section 298.22.

[1961 c 215 s 1; 1973 c 613 s 2]

298.23 TACONITE AND IRON SULPHIDES DEFINED. For the purpose of sections 298.23 to 298.28, "taconite" is defined as ferruginous chert or ferruginous slate in the form of compact, siliceous rock, in which the iron oxide is so finely disseminated that substantially all of the iron-bearing particles of merchantable grade are smaller than 20 mesh and which is not merchantable as iron ore in its natural state, and which cannot be made merchantable by simple methods of beneficiation involving only crushing, screening, washing, jigging, drying, or any combination thereof. "Iron sulphides" are defined as chemical combinations of iron and sulphur (mineralogically known as pyrrhotite, pyrites or marcasite), in relatively impure condition, which are not merchantable as iron ore and which cannot be made merchantable by the simple methods of beneficiation above described.

[1941 c 375 s 1; 1947 c 93 s 1; 1957 c 362 s 1]

298.24 TAX ON TACONITE AND IRON SULPHIDES. Subdivision 1. There is hereby imposed upon taconite and iron sulphides, and upon the mining and quarrying thereof, and upon the production of iron ore concentrate therefrom, and upon the concentrate so produced, a tax of 11.5 cents per gross ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate as produced therefrom, plus one-tenth of one cent per gross ton for each one percent that the iron content of such product exceeds 55 percent, when dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

Subd. 2. If the index of Wholesale Prices for All Commodities prepared for the Joint Economic Committee by the Council of Economic Advisers and distributed by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, as of January of any year shall be above 110, using the average for the years 1957-1959 as the base of 100, the amount of the tax prescribed by subdivision 1 for such year shall be increased by one-tenth of one cent per gross ton for each point increase in said index above 110. For all purposes of this computation, a fractional point increase shall be disregarded if less than one-half point and treated as one full point, if one-half point or more.

Subd. 3. A credit in the amount of two cents per gross ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate produced shall be allowed against the tax imposed by subdivision 1, with respect to the production of iron ore concentrate from taconite plants which, together with the lands upon which they are located and lands used in connection with the mining, quarrying and concentration of taconite and buildings, machinery, equipment and other fixtures used in the production of taconite, and notwithstanding the provisions of section 298.25, have heretofore by law been made subject to direct taxes for the payment of principal and interest on bonds issued by a school district or city; provided however, that the total amount of credit allowable hereunder with respect to production from any plant heretofore subjected to such direct taxes shall not exceed the amount of the direct taxes levied against such plant and payable after January 1, 1969, and until said bonds and the indebtedness secured thereby have been paid in full; and provided further that no credit shall be allowed hereunder after December 31, 1978. Any credit provided for herein shall reduce the credit authorized under Laws 1965, Chapter 735.

[1941 c 375 s 2; 1947 c 93 s 2; 1951 c 613 s 1; 1969 c 1156 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7]

298.241 ADDITIONAL TAX ON TACONITE AND IRON SULPHIDES. Subdivision 1. In addition to the tax imposed under section 298.24, subdivision 1, there is hereby imposed upon taconite and iron sulphides, and upon the mining and quarrying thereof, and upon the iron ore concentrate produced therefrom, and upon the concentrate so produced, (i) a tax of 4 cents per gross ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate produced therefrom during the year 1971 and a tax of 7 cents per gross ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate produced therefrom during the year 1972, (ii) a tax of 9 cents per ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate produced therefrom during the years 1973 and 1974, (iii) a tax of 10 cents per ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate produced therefrom during the years 1975 and 1976, (iv) a tax of 12 cents per ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate produced therefrom during the years 1977 and 1978, and (v) a tax of 14 cents per ton of merchantable iron ore concentrate produced therefrom during the year 1979 and each year thereafter.

Subd. 2. If the index of wholesale prices for all commodities prepared for the joint economic committee by the council of economic advisers and distributed by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, as of January of any year shall be above 119, using the average for the years 1957-1959 as the base of 100, the amount of the tax prescribed by subdivision 1 for such year shall be in-

creased by one tenth of one cent per gross ton for each point increase in said index above 119. For all purposes of this computation, a fractional point increase shall be disregarded if less than one half point and treated as one full point, if one half point or more.

[*Ex1971 c 31 art 30 s 1*]

298.242 DECLARATION OF POLICY. In order to promote the health and welfare of the residents of the iron range communities the economic well being of that area and the state and further in order to encourage continued operation of existing taconite facilities and the construction of expanded or new taconite facilities in Minnesota, the Minnesota legislature hereby declares as the policy of the state that those who have invested in taconite facilities, those who are expanding such facilities, or those who may wish to invest in new taconite facilities may be assured of continued fair and equitable tax treatment by the Minnesota legislature and may rely upon the state to maintain the production taxes on taconite set under existing law and section 298.241 at a level no higher than that prevailing as of the effective date of this act through the year prescribed in said section 298.241 for the last incremental increase.

[*Ex1971 c 31 art 30 s 11*]

298.25 TAXES ADDITIONAL TO OTHER TAXES. The taxes imposed under sections 298.24 and 298.241 shall be in addition to the occupation tax imposed upon the business of mining and producing iron ore and in addition to the royalty tax imposed upon royalties received for permission to mine and produce iron ore. Except as herein otherwise provided, such taxes shall be in lieu of all other taxes upon such taconite and iron sulphides, or the lands in which they are contained, or upon the mining or quarrying thereof, or the production of concentrate therefrom, or upon the concentrate produced, or upon the machinery, equipment, tools, supplies and buildings used in such mining, quarrying or production, or upon the lands occupied by, or used in connection with, such mining, quarrying or production facilities. If electric or steam power for the mining, transportation or concentration of such taconite or the concentrates produced therefrom is generated in plants principally devoted to the generation of power for such purposes, the plants in which such power is generated and all machinery, equipment, tools, supplies, transmission and distribution lines used in the generation and distribution of such power, shall be considered to be machinery, equipment, tools, supplies and buildings used in the mining, quarrying or production of taconite and taconite concentrates within the meaning of this section. If part of the power generated in such a plant is used for purposes other than the mining or concentration of taconite or the transportation or loading of taconite or the concentrates thereof, a proportionate share of the value of such generating facilities, equal to the proportion that the power used for such other purpose bears to the generating capacity of the plant, shall be subject to the general property tax in the same manner as other property; provided, power generated in such a plant and exchanged for an equivalent amount of power which is used for the mining, transportation or concentration of such taconite or concentrates produced therefrom, shall be considered as used for such purposes within the meaning of this section. Nothing herein shall prevent the assessment and taxation of the surface of reserve land containing taconite and not occupied by such facilities or used in connection therewith at the value thereof without regard to the taconite or iron sulphides therein, nor the assessment and taxation of merchantable iron ore or other minerals, or iron-bearing materials other than taconite or iron sulphides in such lands in the manner provided by law, nor the assessment and taxation of facilities used in producing sulphur or sulphur products from iron sulphide concentrates, or in refining such sulphur products, under the general property tax laws. Nothing herein shall except from general taxation or from taxation as provided by other laws any property used for residential or townsite purposes, including utility services thereto.

[*1941 c 375 s 3; 1947 c 93 s 3; 1955 c 729 s 1; 1957 c 363 s 1; 1961 c 450 s 1; Ex1971 c 31 art 30 s 2*]

298.26 TAX ON UNMINED IRON ORE OR IRON SULPHIDES. In any year in which at least 1,000 tons of iron ore concentrate is not produced from any 40-acre tract or governmental lot containing taconite or iron sulphides, a tax may be assessed upon the taconite or iron sulphides therein at the mill rate prevailing in the taxing district and spread against the assessed value of the taconite or iron sul-

phides, such assessed value to be determined in accordance with existing laws. The amount of the tax spread under authority of this section by reason of the taconite and iron sulphides in any tract of land shall not exceed \$1 per acre.

[1941 c 375 s 4; 1947 c 93 s 4]

298.27 COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF TAX. The taxes provided by sections 298.24 and 298.241 shall be collected and paid in the same manner and at the same time as provided by law for the payment of the occupation tax. Reports shall be made and hearings held upon the determination of the tax at the same times and in the same manner as provided by law for the occupation tax. The commissioner of revenue shall have authority to make reasonable regulations as to the form and manner of filing reports necessary for the determination of the tax hereunder, and by such regulations may require the production of such information as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the determination and apportionment of the tax. All the provisions of the occupation tax law with reference to the assessment, determination, and collection of the occupation tax, including all provisions for penalties and for appeals from or review of the orders of the commissioner of revenue relative thereto, are hereby made applicable to the taxes imposed by sections 298.24 and 298.241, except in so far as inconsistent herewith.

[1941 c 375 s 5; 1947 c 193 s 1; Ex1971 c 31 art 30 s 3; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.28 DIVISION OF PROCEEDS. Subdivision 1. The proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.24 shall be distributed by the state treasurer, upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue to the general fund of the state and to the various taxing districts in which the lands from which taconite was mined or quarried were located in the following manner and proportions: 11½ percent thereof to the city, or town; 27 percent thereof to the school district; 11½ percent thereof to the county; three percent thereof to the state and 47 percent thereof, less any amount required to be distributed under subdivision 1a to the taconite property tax relief account in the apportionment fund in the state treasury. If the mining, quarrying, and concentration, or different steps in either thereof are carried on in more than one taxing district, the commissioner shall apportion equitably the proceeds of the part of the tax going to cities and towns among such subdivisions as provided above, and the part going to school districts among such districts, and the part going to counties among such counties, upon the basis of attributing 40 percent of the proceeds of the tax to the operation of mining or quarrying the taconite, and the remainder to the concentrating plant and to the processes of concentration, and with respect to each thereof giving due consideration to the relative extent of such operations performed in each such taxing district. His order making such apportionment shall be subject to review by the tax court at the instance of any of the interested taxing districts, in the same manner as other orders of the commissioner. The amount so distributed shall be divided among the various funds of the state, or of the taxing districts in the same proportion as the general ad valorem tax thereof. If in any year the state shall not spread any general ad valorem tax levy against real property, the state's proportion of the tax shall be paid into the general fund. The amount distributed to any city and one-third in 1971 and that portion not deducted from state aids in section 124.212, subdivision 8, thereafter of the amount distributed to any school district under the provisions hereof shall be included in computing the permissible levies of such city or school district under sections 275.11 or 275.125, provided, in computing the deduction from permissible levies of cities by reason hereof effect shall be given to the cost of living adjustment allowed by section 275.11, subdivision 2, regardless of whether or not more than 25 percent of the assessed valuation consists of iron ore. On or before October 10 of each calendar year each producer of taconite or iron sulphides subject to taxation under section 298.24 (hereinafter called "taxpayer") shall file with the commissioner of revenue and with the county auditor of each county in which such taxpayer operates, and with the chief clerical officer of each school district or city which is entitled to participate in the distribution of the tax, an estimate of the amount of tax which would be payable by such taxpayer under said law for such calendar year; provided such estimate shall be in an amount not less than the amount due on the mining and production of concentrates up to September 30 of said year plus the amount becoming due because of probable production between September 30 and December 31 of said year, less any credit allowable as hereinafter provided. Such estimate shall list the taxing districts entitled to participate in the distribution of such tax, and the amount of the estimated tax which would be distributable to each such district in

such next ensuing calendar year on the basis of the last percentage distribution certified by the commissioner of revenue. If there be no such prior certification, the taxpayer shall set forth its estimate of the proper distribution of such tax under the law, which estimate may be corrected by the commissioner if he deems it improper, notice of such correction being given by him to the taxpayer and the public officers receiving such estimate. The officers with whom such report is so filed shall use the amount so indicated as being distributable to each taxing district except in the case of school districts one-third in 1971 and that portion not deducted from state aids in section 124.212, subdivision 8, thereafter of the indicated amount is to be used in computing, pursuant to sections 275.11 or 275.125, the permissible tax levy of such city or school district in the year in which such estimate is made, and payable in the next ensuing calendar year. Such taxpayer shall then pay, at the times payments are required to be made pursuant to section 298.27, as the amount of tax payable under section 298.24, the greater of (a) the amount shown by such estimate, or (b) the amount due under said section as finally determined by the commissioner of revenue pursuant to law. If, as a result of the payment of the amount of such estimate, the taxpayer has paid in any calendar year an amount of tax in excess of the amount due in such year under section 298.24, after application of credits for any excess payments made in previous years, all as determined by the commissioner of revenue, the taxpayer shall be given credit for such excess amount against any taxes which, under said section, may become due from the taxpayer in subsequent years. In any calendar year in which a general property tax levy subject to sections 275.11 or 275.125 has been made, if the taxes distributable to any such city or school district are greater than the amount estimated to be paid to any such city or school district in such year, the excess of such distribution shall be held in a special fund by the city or school district and shall not be expended until the succeeding calendar year, and shall be included in computing the permissible levies under sections 275.11 or 275.125, of such city or school district payable in such year. If the amounts distributable to any such city or school district, after final determination by the commissioner of revenue under section 298.28 are less than the amounts indicated by such estimates, such city or school district may issue certificates of indebtedness in the amount of the shortage, and may include in its next tax levy, in excess of the limitations of sections 275.11 or 275.125 an amount sufficient to pay such certificates of indebtedness and interest thereon, or, if no certificates were issued, an amount equal to such shortage.

There is hereby appropriated to such taxing districts as are stated herein and to the taconite property tax relief account in the apportionment fund in the state treasury, from any fund or account in the state treasury to which the money was credited, an amount sufficient to make the payment or transfer.

Subd. 1a. If an electric power plant owned by and providing the primary source of power for a taxpayer mining and concentrating taconite is located in a county other than the county in which the mining and the concentrating processes are conducted, three fourths cent per gross ton of the tax imposed under section 298.24 collected from such taxpayer shall be distributed by the state treasurer, upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue to the county and school district in which such power plant is located as follows: 25 percent thereof to the county and 75 percent thereof to the school district.

Subd. 2. In distributing the proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.24, the commissioner of revenue shall deduct the amount of any credits authorized under subdivision 3 of section 298.24, against the tax imposed under subdivision 1 of said section, from the amount which would otherwise have been distributed to the taconite property tax relief account in the apportionment fund in the state treasury under subdivision 1 of this section.

Subd. 3. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to apply to the distribution of taxes under section 298.64.

[1941 c 375 s 6; 1947 c 193 s 2; 1955 c 728 s 1; 1959 c 158 s 26; 1959 c 677 s 1; 1965 c 698 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 49; 1969 c 1156 s 2; 1971 c 736 s 1, 2; Ex1971 c 31 art 35 s 2; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1973 c 631 s 6]

298.281 DIVISION OF PROCEEDS. Subdivision 1. Commencing in 1972 with respect to the tax imposed under section 298.241 on production in 1971, one-half cent per ton and each year thereafter, one cent per ton of the tax collected under section 298.241 plus any escalation thereon as provided in said section shall be distrib-

uted by the state treasurer, upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue, to the county from which the taconite was mined or quarried and deposited in the county road and bridge fund. If the mining, quarrying and concentrating, of different steps in either thereof, are carried on in more than one county, the commissioner shall apportion equitably the proceeds going to each county in the same manner and proportion as the proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.24 are apportioned among the counties under section 298.28, subdivision 1. The amount distributed under this section to any county having a population in excess of 100,000 shall not exceed \$2 per capita based upon the resident population of such county according to the latest federal census. The excess, if any, which would otherwise be available to such county in the absence of this limitation, shall be distributed as provided in subdivision 4. There is hereby appropriated annually to such county or counties from any fund or account in the state treasury to which the proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.241 was credited, an amount sufficient to make the payment or transfer provided for herein.

Subd. 2. Commencing in 1972, one-half cent per ton and each year thereafter, one cent per ton of the tax collected under section 298.241 plus any escalation thereon as provided in said section shall be distributed by the state treasurer, upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue, to the commissioner of iron range resources and rehabilitation for the purposes set forth in section 298.22 and there is hereby appropriated annually for such purposes from any fund or account in the state treasury to which the proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.241 were credited, an amount equal thereto.

Subd. 3. Commencing in 1972 with respect to the tax imposed under section 298.241 on production in 1971 and continuing each year thereafter, the state treasurer upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue shall distribute to the taconite property tax relief account in the apportionment fund in the state treasury, the following respective amounts from the tax collected under section 298.241: (i) in the year 1972 one cent per ton, (ii) in the year 1973 two cents per ton, (iii) in the years 1974 through 1979, inclusive, three cents per ton and (iv) in the year 1980 and thereafter four cents per ton plus in each case any escalation thereon as provided in said section. There is hereby appropriated annually to the taconite property tax relief account in the apportionment fund in the state treasury an amount sufficient to make the payment or transfer provided for herein.

Subd. 4. Commencing in 1972 with respect to the tax imposed under section 298.241 on production in 1971 and continuing each year thereafter the state treasurer upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue shall distribute to the taconite municipal aid account in the apportionment fund of the state treasury, the following respective amounts from the tax collected under section 298.241: (i) in the year 1972, two cents per ton, (ii) in the year 1973, three cents per ton, (iii) in the years 1974 and 1975, four cents per ton, (iv) in the years 1976 and 1977, five cents per ton, (v) in the years 1978 and 1979, seven cents per ton, (vi) in the year 1980 and thereafter, eight cents per ton plus in each case any escalation thereon as provided in said section. There is hereby appropriated annually to the taconite municipal aid account in the apportionment fund of the state treasury an amount sufficient to make the payment or transfer provided for herein.

Subd. 5. Each producer of taconite or iron sulphides subject to taxation under section 298.241, hereinafter referred to as the "taxpayer", shall file with the commissioner of revenue and with the commissioner of finance as follows: within 15 days after the effective date of Extra Session Laws 1971, Chapter 31, Article 30 an estimate of the amount of tax payable by such taxpayer under section 298.241 for 1971 and by October 10 of each calendar year thereafter an estimate for such calendar year; provided such estimate shall be in an amount not less than the amount due on the mining and production of concentrates up to September 30 of each such year plus the amount estimated to become due on estimated production between September 30 and December 31 of each such year less any credit allowable as hereinafter provided. After receipt of such estimates from all such taxpayers, the commissioner of revenue shall determine the estimated total amount of the tax to be paid the next ensuing calendar year under section 298.241 by all such taxpayers. Using such estimated total amount, the commissioner of revenue shall determine the amount estimated to be distributable the next ensuing calendar year respectively to each county under subdivision 1 hereof and to the municipal aid account in the apportionment

fund of the state treasury. The commissioner of revenue shall further determine on a pro rata per capita basis the amount estimated to be distributable the next ensuing calendar year to each qualifying municipality, as defined in section 298.282, by dividing the total amount estimated to be available for distribution to said municipal aid account by the total population according to the latest federal census of all qualifying municipalities to arrive at a per capita distributive share for such year and by multiplying the per capita distributive share by the population of each such municipality. Following such determination, the commissioner of revenue shall report to the county auditor of each county to which any part of the proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.241 will be distributable and to the chief clerical officer of each qualifying municipality to which proceeds of the municipal aid account will be distributable the amount estimated to be distributable to each in the next ensuing calendar year. The amount estimated to be distributable to each qualifying municipality in the next ensuing calendar year referred to in such report shall be included in computing all permissible levies of such municipality for such year and shall be deducted first from the permissible general levy and then proportionately from permissible excess levies.

Subd. 6. At the time prescribed in section 298.27, each taxpayer shall pay as the amount of the tax due under section 298.241 the greater of (a) the amount shown in the estimate required under subdivision 5 hereof, or (b) the amount due under said section as finally determined by the commissioner of revenue pursuant to law. If, as a result of the payment of the amount of such estimate, the taxpayer has paid in any calendar year an amount of tax in excess of the actual amount due in such year under said section, after application of credits for any excess made in previous years or as determined by the commissioner of revenue, the taxpayer shall be given credit for such excess amount against any taxes which, under said section, may become due from the taxpayer in subsequent years.

[*Ex*1971 c 31 art 30 s 4; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.282 DISTRIBUTION OF TACONITE MUNICIPAL AID ACCOUNT; TACONITE MUNICIPAL AID; PAYMENT. Subdivision 1. The amount deposited to the credit of the taconite municipal aid account in the apportionment fund of the state treasury as provided in section 298.281, subdivision 4 shall be distributed as provided by this section, among the municipalities comprising a tax relief area under section 273.134, as amended hereby, each being herein referred to as a qualifying municipality.

Subd. 2. Each year commencing in 1972, and the following final determination of the amount of taxes payable under section 298.241, the commissioner of revenue shall determine the amount in the taconite municipal aid account as of July 1 of such year and the amount to be distributed to each qualifying municipality during such year. The amount to be distributed to each qualifying municipality shall be determined by dividing the total amount in said account as of July 1 by the total population according to the latest federal census of all qualifying municipalities to determine the per capita distributive share for such year and by multiplying the per capita distributive share by the population of such municipality. Upon completion of such determination, the commissioner of revenue shall certify to the chief clerical officer of each qualifying municipality the amount which will be distributed to such municipality from the taconite municipal aid account that year.

Subd. 3. If the amount certified by the commissioner of revenue as distributable to any qualifying municipality is greater than the amount previously estimated to have been distributable to such qualifying municipality in such year, the excess distributed to such municipality shall be held in a separate fund by the qualifying municipality and shall not be expended until the succeeding calendar year and shall be deducted, first, from the permissible general levy and then proportionately from permissible excess levies of the qualifying municipality in the succeeding calendar year. If the amount distributable to any qualifying municipality, after final determination by the commissioner of revenue is less than the amount estimated to have been distributable to such qualifying municipality, such municipality may issue certificates of indebtedness in the amount of the shortage and may include in its next tax levy in excess of then existing levy limitations an amount sufficient to pay such certificates of indebtedness and interest thereon or, if no certificates were issued, an amount equal to such shortage.

Subd. 4. On or before August 15, 1972, and on or before August 15 of each year

thereafter, the commissioner of finance shall issue his warrant in favor of the treasurer of each qualifying municipality in the amount determined by the commissioner of revenue to be due and payable to such qualifying municipality in such year.

[*Ex*1971 c 31 art 30 s 6; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1973 c 631 s 7-9]

298.283 CHANGE OF STATUS OF MUNICIPALITY; DATE FOR DETERMINING STATUS. If any qualifying municipality as defined in section 298.282, is consolidated with another municipality or part thereof, the secretary of state shall certify that fact to the commissioner of revenue, who shall determine the amounts payable to the consolidated municipality according to the combined population resulting, for the purpose of determining aid payable under the provisions of section 298.282. The determination of amounts payable under the provisions of section 298.282 shall however be based on the status of the municipality on January 1 of each year.

[*Ex*1971 c 31 art 30 s 7; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1973 c 631 s 10]

298.29 [Renumbered 117.46]

298.30 [Renumbered 117.47]

298.31 [Private]

298.32 OCCUPATION TAX ON TACONITE, DISTRIBUTION. For the year 1958 and each year thereafter until June 30, 1969, there is hereby appropriated from the general fund, for the purposes hereinafter set forth, 50 percent of all amounts paid and credited into said fund from the proceeds of taxes paid upon the mining and production of taconite and taconite concentrates under the provisions of law relating to occupation taxes on the business of mining or producing iron ore; for the year beginning July 1, 1969, and each year thereafter there is appropriated from the general fund for the purposes set forth, 25 percent of all amounts paid and credited into said fund from the proceeds of taxes paid upon the mining and production of taconite and taconite concentrates under the provisions of law relating to occupation taxes on the business of mining and producing iron ore; provided, the amount so appropriated shall in no event exceed five cents per ton of taconite concentrates produced by reason of which such taxes were paid. The amounts so appropriated shall be distributed among and paid to the various governmental subdivisions in which the taconite operations, by reason of which such taxes were paid, were conducted in the following proportion: 25 percent thereof to the city or town; 50 percent thereof to the school district; 25 percent thereof to the county. The amounts so appropriated shall be paid by the state treasurer upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue, who shall make such apportionment. If the mining and concentration of such taconite and taconite concentrates or different steps in either thereof are carried on in more than one such taxing district, the commissioner shall apportion equitably the proceeds of the part of the tax going to cities or towns among such subdivisions, and the part going to school districts among such districts, and the part going to counties among such counties, upon the basis of attributing 40 percent of the proceeds of the tax to the operation of mining or quarrying the taconite, and the remainder to the concentrating plant and to the processes of concentration, and with respect to each thereof giving due consideration to the relative extent of such operations performed in each taxing district. His order making such apportionment shall be subject to review by the tax court at the instance of any of the interested taxing districts, in the same manner as other orders of the commissioner. The amount so distributed shall be divided among the various funds of the taxing districts in the same proportion as the general ad valorem tax levy thereof. The amount distributed to any city and one-third in 1971 and that portion not deducted from state aids in section 124.212, subdivision 8, thereafter of the amount distributed to any school district under the provisions hereof shall not be included in computing the permissible levies of such city or school district under sections 275.11 or 275.125, as amended, so long as such levies are based upon a population not exceeding the population used as the basis for spreading the tax levy in the year 1956. In the event that as a result of taking any census the population basis for computing the limit of levies under such sections is increased above the population used as a basis for spreading the tax levy in the year 1956, or in the event that the basis of sections 275.11 or 275.125 is changed to a basis other than population, the amount of

the tax distributed pursuant hereto shall be included in computing the permissible levies under either of said sections.

[1957 c 785 s 1; 1965 c 698 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 44; 1969 c 399 s 49; Ex1971 c 31 art 35 s 3; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.34 SEMI-TACONITE, TAXATION, DEFINITIONS. Subdivision 1. **Semi-taconite.** For the purposes of sections 298.34 to 298.39, "semi-taconite" is defined as altered iron formation, altered taconite, ferruginous chert or ferruginous slate which has been oxidized and partially leached and in which the iron oxide is so finely disseminated that substantially all of the iron-bearing particles of merchantable grade are smaller than 20 mesh and which is not merchantable as iron ore in its natural state, and which cannot be made merchantable by simple methods of beneficiation involving only crushing, screening, washing, jigging, heavy media separation, spirals, cyclones, drying or any combination thereof.

Subd. 2. **Semi-taconite deposit.** For the purposes of sections 298.34 to 298.39, a "semi-taconite deposit" is a deposit of altered iron formation, altered taconite, composites of iron-bearing and other minerals that exist either in mass as altered iron formation, or as intermingled masses of altered iron formation and other iron-bearing materials, from which, and in accordance with good mining practice, the concentrates or equivalent must be produced in an operation involving the beneficiation of the semi-taconite. Such deposits include stockpiles of semi-taconite. They also include rejects or tailings that in themselves are of semi-taconite type (as defined in subdivision 1), produced from mining or beneficiation operations. Not included is any separable portion of merchantable iron-bearing material if this separable portion is of such size and so situated that in accordance with good practice it can be mined and shipped. Also not included is any separable portion of iron-bearing material that can be made merchantable by simple methods of beneficiation (as defined in subdivision 1), if this separable portion is of such size and so situated that in accordance with good practice it can be mined, beneficiated, and shipped in a separate commercial operation.

Subd. 3. **Semi-taconite facility.** For the purposes of sections 298.34 to 298.39, a semi-taconite facility is: (a) a beneficiating plant or a section or part thereof used solely in the process of beneficiating semi-taconite, including buildings, machinery, tools, equipment and supplies used in connection therewith; (b) machinery, tools, equipment and supplies used solely in the mining of semi-taconite or semi-taconite deposit; (c) in the case of a part or section of a mining or beneficiating facility or buildings, machinery, tools, equipment or supplies used to a substantial extent, but not solely, in the mining or beneficiating of semi-taconite or a semi-taconite deposit, such proportionate part of the valuation of the part of the facility or the buildings, machinery, tools, equipment or supplies that the use for mining or beneficiation of semi-taconite or semi-taconite deposit bears to the whole use thereof shall be considered a semi-taconite mining or beneficiation facility, and the remaining proportionate part shall remain subject to taxation in the same manner as other property, such proportion to be determined, and redetermined from time to time, by the commissioner of revenue upon application of the assessing officer or the owner of such facility.

Subd. 4. **Taconite.** The term "taconite" is used herein as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Section 298.23.

[Ex1959 c 81 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.35 IMPOSITION OF TAX; AMOUNT. There is hereby imposed upon semi-taconite and semi-taconite deposits, and upon the mining and quarrying thereof, and upon the production of concentrate or equivalent therefrom, and upon the concentrate or equivalent so produced, a tax of (a) in the case of concentrates agglomerated or sintered in Minnesota or to be agglomerated or sintered in Minnesota, five cents per gross ton of merchantable concentrate as produced therefrom, plus one-tenth of one cent per gross ton for each one percent that the iron content of such product exceeds 55 percent, when dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, or (b) in the case of all other concentrates or equivalent ten cents per gross ton of merchantable concentrate or equivalent as produced therefrom, plus one-tenth of one cent per gross ton for each one-half percent that the iron content of such product exceeds 55 percent, when dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. If any part of the ore materials from a semi-taconite deposit, beneficiated in connection with or incidental to the beneficiation of semi-taconite therefrom, is made merchantable by simple methods of beneficiation referred to in section 298.34, the tax here-

under upon the portion of merchantable concentrate so beneficiated shall be at the rate of ten cents per gross ton plus one-tenth of one cent per gross ton for each one-half of one percent that the iron content of such product exceeds 55 percent, when dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

[*Ex1959 c 81 s 2*]

298.36 NATURE OF TAX. Such tax shall be in addition to the occupation tax imposed upon the business of mining and producing iron ore and in addition to the royalty tax imposed upon royalties received for permission to mine and produce iron ore. Except as herein otherwise provided, it shall be in lieu of all other taxes upon such semi-taconite and semi-taconite deposits, or the lands in which contained, or upon the mining or quarrying thereof, or the production of concentrates therefrom, or upon the concentrate produced, or upon semi-taconite mining and beneficiation facilities used in connection therewith, or upon the lands occupied by such semi-taconite mining or beneficiation facilities. If electric or steam power for the mining, transportation or concentration of such semi-taconite or the concentrates produced therefrom is generated in plants principally devoted to the generation of power for such purposes, the plants in which such power is generated and all machinery, equipment, tools, supplies, transmission and distribution lines used in the generation and distribution of such power, shall be considered to be machinery, equipment, tools, supplies and buildings used in the mining, quarrying or production of semi-taconite and semi-taconite concentrates within the meaning of this section. If part of the power generated in such a plant is used for purposes other than the mining or concentration of semi-taconite or the transportation or loading of semi-taconite or the concentrates thereof, a proportionate share of the value of such generating facilities, equal to the proportion that the power used for such other purpose bears to the whole amount of power generated therein, shall be subject to the general property tax in the same manner as other property; provided, power generated in such a plant and exchanged for an equivalent amount of power which is used for the mining, transportation or concentration of such semi-taconite or concentrates produced therefrom, shall be considered as used for such purposes within the meaning of this section. Nothing herein shall prevent the assessment and taxation of the surface of reserve land containing semi-taconite and not occupied by such facilities or used solely in connection therewith at the value thereof without regard to the semi-taconite therein, nor the assessment and taxation of merchantable iron ore or other minerals, or iron-bearing materials other than semi-taconite in such lands in the manner provided by law, nor the assessment and taxation of facilities used in producing sulphur or sulphur products from iron sulphide concentrates, or in refining such sulphur products, under the general property tax laws. Nothing herein shall except from general taxation or from taxation as provided by other laws any property used for residential or townsite purposes, including utility services thereto.

[*Ex1959 c 81 s 3*]

298.37 ASSESSMENT AT MILL RATE. In any year in which at least 1,000 tons of iron ore concentrate is not produced from any 40-acre tract or governmental lot containing semi-taconite, a tax may be assessed upon the semi-taconite therein at the mill rate prevailing in the taxing district and spread against the assessed value of the semi-taconite; such assessed value shall not exceed the greater of: (a) the assessed value specifically assigned to the semi-taconite material in said land in the assessment for the year 1958, or, (b) an amount sufficient to yield a tax of \$1 per acre less the amount of any tax assessed against such land under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, Section 298.26.

[*Ex1959 c 81 s 4*]

298.38 PAYMENT AND COLLECTION. The tax provided in section 298.35 shall be collected and paid in the same manner and at the same time as provided by law for the payment of the occupation tax. Reports shall be made and hearings held upon the determination of the tax at the same times and in the same manner as provided by law for the occupation tax. The commissioner of revenue shall have authority to make reasonable regulations as to the form and manner of filing reports necessary for the determination of the tax hereunder, and by such regulations may require the production of such information as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the determination and apportionment of the tax. All the provisions of the occupation tax law with reference to the assessment, determination, and collection of the occupation tax, including all provisions for penalties and

for appeals from or review of the orders of the commissioner of revenue relative thereto, are hereby made applicable to the tax imposed by section 298.35, except insofar as inconsistent herewith.

[*Ex 1959, c 81 s 5; 1973 c 582 s 3*]

298.39 DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS. The proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.35 shall be distributed by the state treasurer, upon certificate of the commissioner of revenue to the general fund of the state and to the various taxing districts in which the lands from which the semi-taconite was mined or quarried were located in the following proportions: 22 percent thereof to the city or town; 50 percent thereof to the school district; 22 percent thereof to the county; six percent thereof to the state. If the mining and concentration, or different steps in either thereof are carried on in more than one taxing district, the commissioner shall apportion equitably the proceeds of the part of the tax going to cities or towns among such subdivisions, and the part going to school districts among such districts, and the part going to counties among such counties, upon the basis of attributing 40 percent of the proceeds of the tax to the operation of mining or quarrying the semi-taconite, and the remainder to the concentrating plant and to the processes of concentration, and with respect to each thereof giving due consideration to the relative extent of such operations performed in each such taxing district. His order making such apportionment shall be subject to review by the tax court at the instance of any of the interested taxing districts, in the same manner as other orders of the commissioner. The amount so distributed shall be divided among the various funds of the state, or of the taxing districts in the same proportion as the general ad valorem tax thereof. If in any year the state shall not spread any general ad valorem tax levy against real property, the state's proportion of the tax shall be paid into the general fund. The amount distributed to any city and one-third in 1971 and that portion not deducted from state aids in section 124.212, subdivision 8, thereafter of the amount distributed to any school district under the provisions hereof shall be included in computing the permissible levies of such city or school district under sections 275.11 or 275.125, but shall not be included in computing mill rate limitations, including cost of living adjustments thereof, so long as the levies do not exceed the limitations provided by said sections 275.11 or 275.125. On or before October 10 of each calendar year each producer of semi-taconite subject to taxation under section 298.35, hereinafter called "taxpayer," shall file with the commissioner of revenue and with the county auditor of each county in which such taxpayer operates, and with the chief clerical officer of each school district or city which is entitled to participate in the distribution of the tax, an estimate of the amount of tax which would be payable by such taxpayer under said law for such calendar year; provided such estimate shall be in an amount not less than the amount due on the mining and production of concentrates up to September 30 of said year plus the amount becoming due because of probable production between September 30 and December 31 of said year, less any credit allowable as hereinafter provided. Such estimate shall list the taxing districts entitled to participate in the distribution of such tax, and the amount of the estimated tax which would be distributable to each such district in such next ensuing calendar year on the basis of the last percentage distribution certified by the commissioner of revenue. If there be no such prior certification, the taxpayer shall set forth its estimate of the proper distribution of such tax under the law, which estimate may be corrected by the commissioner if he deems it improper, notice of such correction being given by him to the taxpayer and the public officers receiving such estimate. The officers with whom such report is so filed shall use the amount so indicated as being distributable to each taxing district except in the case of school districts one-third in 1971 and that portion not deducted from state aids in section 124.212, subdivision 8, thereafter of the indicated amount is to be used in computing, pursuant to sections 275.11 or 275.125, the permissible tax levy of such city or school district in the year in which such estimate is made, and payable in the next ensuing calendar year. Such taxpayer shall then pay, at the times payments are required to be made pursuant to section 298.36, as the amount of tax payable under section 298.35, the greater of (a) the amount shown by such estimate, or (b) the amount due under said section as finally determined by the commissioner of revenue pursuant to law. If, as a result of the payment of the amount of such estimate, the taxpayer has paid in any calendar year an amount of tax in excess of the amount due in such year under section 298.35, after application of credits for any excess

payments made in previous years, all as determined by the commissioner of revenue, the taxpayer shall be given credit for such excess amount against any taxes which, under said section, may become due from the taxpayer in subsequent years. In any calendar year in which a general property tax levy subject to sections 275.11 or 275.125 has been made, if the taxes distributable to any such city or school district are greater than the amount estimated to be paid to any such city or school district in such year, the excess of such distribution shall be held in a special fund by the city or school district and shall not be expended until the succeeding calendar year, and shall be included in computing the permissible levies under sections 275.11 or 275.125 of such city or school district payable in such year. If the amounts distributable to any such city or school district, after final determination by the commissioner of revenue under this section are less than the amounts indicated by such estimates, such city or school district may issue certificates of indebtedness in the amount of the shortage, and may include in its next tax levy, in excess of the limitations of sections 275.11 or 275.125 an amount sufficient to pay such certificates of indebtedness and interest thereon, or, if no certificates were issued, an amount equal to such shortage.

There is hereby appropriated to such taxing districts as are stated herein, from any fund or account in the state treasury to which the money was credited, an amount sufficient to make the payment or transfer.

[*Ex1959 c 81 s 6; 1965 c 641 s 1; 1965 c 698 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 49; Ex1971 c 31 art 35 s 4; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 582 s 3*]

298.391 AGGLOMERATING FACILITIES DEFINITIONS. Subdivision 1. When used in sections 298.391 to 298.396, the following terms have the meaning assigned to them in this section, unless the context otherwise requires.

Subd. 2. "Agglomerates" means the merchantable iron ore aggregates which are produced by agglomeration.

Subd. 3. "Agglomerating facility" means a plant or plants, other than taconite plants or semi-taconite facilities for the production of agglomerates and other merchantable iron ore products not less than 80 percent of the total annual productive capacity of which is designed and used for the production of agglomerates, together with all lands, except iron ore and iron bearing material therein; all structures, buildings, machinery, equipment, tools and supplies which are used or to be used in connection with such plant or plants or in connection with the mining of agglomerate reserves; mined iron ore, iron bearing materials and concentrates stockpiled at said plant or plants for processing therein; and stockpiles of the merchantable iron ore products which have been produced therein.

Subd. 4. "Agglomeration" means the application of a process either of pelletizing, sintering, nodulizing, briquetting, extruding or mechanical pressure to iron ore and iron bearing material, other than taconite and semi-taconite, at temperatures in excess of 900 degrees Fahrenheit.

Subd. 5. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of revenue of the state of Minnesota.

[*1965 c 893 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3*]

298.392 QUALIFICATION OF AGGLOMERATING FACILITIES; PROCEDURE AND ORDER. An agglomerating facility shall be or become subject to taxation under sections 298.391 to 298.396 after it shall have been approved as such by order of the commissioner. Request for such approval shall be in writing and shall contain a description of the facility, together with such additional information and supporting data as the commissioner may require. The commissioner may make reasonable regulations not inconsistent herewith prescribing the form of such requests. If the commissioner determines that the facility, which may include existing structures, buildings, machinery, equipment, tools and supplies, qualifies as an agglomerating facility under sections 298.391 to 298.396, he shall by order approve the same as such and the facility shall thereupon become subject to the provisions of sections 298.391 to 298.396.

[*1965 c 893 s 2*]

298.393 IMPOSITION OF TAX; AMOUNT. There is hereby imposed upon agglomerating facilities and upon the production of agglomerates and other merchantable iron ore products therein and upon the agglomerates and other products so produced, a tax equal to five cents per gross ton of agglomerates and other merchantable iron ore products which shall have been produced in the agglomerating facility during the calendar year plus one-tenth of one cent per gross ton for

each one percent that the iron content of such products exceeds 55 percent, when dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

[1965 c 893 s 3]

298.394 NATURE OF TAX. Such tax shall be in addition to the occupation tax imposed upon the business of mining and producing iron ore and in addition to the royalty tax imposed upon royalties received for permission to mine and produce iron ore. Except as herein otherwise provided, it shall be in lieu of all other taxes upon the agglomerating facility or upon the production of agglomerates and other merchantable iron ore products therein, or upon the agglomerates and other products so produced.

[1965 c 893 s 4]

298.395 PAYMENT AND COLLECTION. The tax provided in section 298.393 shall be collected and paid in the same manner and at the same time as provided by law for the payment of the occupation tax. Reports shall be made and hearings held upon the determination of the tax at the same times and in the same manner as provided by law for the occupation tax. The commissioner of revenue shall have authority to make reasonable regulations as to the form and manner of filing reports necessary for the determination of the tax hereunder, and by such regulations may require the submission by taxpayer of such information as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the determination and apportionment of the tax. All the provisions of the occupation tax law with reference to the assessment, determination and collection of the occupation tax, including all provisions for penalties and for appeals from or review of the orders of the commissioner of revenue relative thereto, are hereby made applicable to the tax imposed by said section 298.393, except insofar as inconsistent herewith.

[1965 c 893 s 5; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.396 DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS. The proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.393 shall be distributed by the state treasurer, upon certificate of the commissioner to the general fund of the state and to the various taxing districts in which the agglomerating facility is located in the following proportions: 22 percent thereof to the city or town; 50 percent thereof to the school district; 22 percent thereof to the county; 6 percent thereof to the state. If the agglomerating facility is located in more than one tax district, the commissioner shall apportion equitably the proceeds of the part of the tax going to cities or towns among such subdivisions, and the part going to school districts among such districts, and the part going to counties among such counties, giving due consideration to the relative extent of the facilities located in each such taxing district. His order making such apportionment shall be subject to review by the tax court at the instance of any of the interested taxing districts, in the same manner as other orders of the commissioner. The amount to be distributed among the several taxing districts of the state shall be divided by such districts among the funds of such districts in the same proportion as the general ad valorem tax thereof. The amount distributed to any city and one-third in 1971 and that portion not deducted from state aids in section 124.212, subdivision 8, thereafter of the amount distributed to any school district under the provisions hereof shall be included in computing the permissible amount of the levies of such city or school district under sections 275.11 or 275.125, but shall not be included in computing mill rate limitations, including cost of living adjustments thereof, so long as the levies do not exceed the limitations provided by said sections 275.11 or 275.125.

[1965 c 698 s 3; 1965 c 893 s 6; 1969 c 399 s 49; Ex1971 c 31 art 35 s 5; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7]

298.40 TACONITE AND SEMI-TACONITE, LIMITATIONS ON TAXATION. Subdivision 1. The combined occupation, royalty, and excise taxes imposed upon or required to be paid with respect to the mining, production, or beneficiation of taconite or semi-taconite by any person or corporation engaged in such mining, production, or beneficiation, shall not be increased so as to exceed the greater of (a) the amount which would be payable if such taxes were computed under the laws in existence as of July 1, 1963, or (b) the amount which would be payable if such person or corporation were taxed with respect to such mining, production, or beneficiation under the income, franchise, and excise tax laws generally applicable to manufacturing corporations transacting business within the state, as such laws may be enacted or amended from time to time, except that for the purpose of the computation under this clause (b), (1) income shall be appor-

tioned to Minnesota in the manner which may be otherwise specified by law; (2) operating losses shall be carried forward from one taxable year to another only to the extent which may be otherwise permitted by law; and (3) the market value of the taconite or semi-taconite, or the beneficiated product thereof, at the point where the beneficiation processes within this state are completed may be treated by law as gross receipts for the purpose of determining gross income from the business of mining, producing, or beneficiating taconite or semi-taconite, provided that if such market value is so used, to the extent that federal income taxes are deductible in computing taxes of manufacturing corporations generally, deductions shall be computed and allowed as if such taxes had been computed, assessed, and paid under the federal income tax laws with the market value of the taconite or semi-taconite or the beneficiated product thereof constituting the gross receipts for the purpose of determining gross income from the business of mining, producing, or beneficiating taconite or semi-taconite.

Subd. 2. Taxes imposed upon the mining or quarrying of taconite or semi-taconite and upon the production of iron ore concentrates therefrom, which are in lieu of a tax on real or personal property, shall not be considered to be occupation, royalty, or excise taxes within the meaning of this section.

Subd. 3. For the purpose of this section "taconite" and "semi-taconite" shall have the meaning given to them by laws in existence at the time of the adoption of this section.

[1963 c 81 s 1-3]

298.405 IRON ORE BEARING MATERIAL OTHER THAN TACONITE AND SEMI-TACONITE; TAXATION. Subdivision 1. **Imposition of tax.** In any year in which iron bearing material other than taconite and semi-taconite as defined by law, having not more than 46.5 percent natural iron content on the average, produced from any 40 acre tract or governmental lot, but not from more than three such tracts or lots by an individual producer, is finer than or is ground to 90 percent passing 20 mesh and is treated for the purpose of separating the iron particles from silica, alumina, or other detrimental compounds or elements unless used in a direct reduction process, and is treated in Minnesota:

(a) By either electro-static separation, roasting and magnetic separation, or flotation or

(b) By a direct reduction process or

(c) By any combination of such processes or

(d) By any other process or method not presently employed in gravity separation plants employing only crushing, screening, washing, jigging, heavy media separation, spirals, cyclones, drying or any combination thereof, the production of such ore shall be taxed in the manner and at the rates provided for the taxation of semi-taconite under section 298.35 provided that the amount of concentrates or final product so produced each year from any one 40 acre tract or governmental lot exceeds 100,000 tons or exceeds 25,000 tons from any one 40 acre tract or governmental lot where the average phosphorus content exceeds .125 percent dry analysis or .10 percent sulphur dry analysis. Such tax shall be in addition to the occupation and royalty taxes but shall be in lieu of all other taxes upon the said 40 acre tract or governmental lot, the iron ore contained therein, the concentrates produced, and the mining and beneficiating facilities used in such production. The determination as to what materials will qualify under this law will be made by the commissioner of revenue who may use the services of the ore estimate division of the university of Minnesota, school of mines and metallurgy, which is hereby established as a technical consultant to the commissioner for the purposes of this act. The tax imposed shall be collected, paid, and the proceeds thereof distributed in the same manner and at the same time as the tax imposed upon semi-taconite by section 298.35 is collected, paid, and distributed.

The tax imposed by this section is not an occupation, royalty or excise tax imposed upon or required to be paid with respect to the mining, production, or beneficiation of taconite or semi-taconite within the provisions of section 298.40, and the provisions of said section 298.40 have no application to the provisions of this section.

Subd. 2. **Producer; annual report.** On or before October 1 of each calendar year each producer of the iron bearing material described above in this section subject to taxation under section 298.35 (hereinafter called "taxpayer") shall file with the commissioner of revenue a report in the form prescribed by the commissioner of revenue. Such report shall show, with such other facts as the commis-

sioner may require, by months the number of tons of such iron bearing material produced in each 40 acre tract or governmental lot, with a description thereof and of the number of concentrates produced therefrom, all during the current calendar year; the estimated number of tons of such material and of concentrates which will be produced in each such tract or governmental lot during the remainder of the current calendar year and the name and location of the beneficiating facilities used in such production; and a description of the 40 acre tract or governmental lot and a description of the real property which it is claimed is exempt from taxation under the in lieu provisions of subdivision 1 by virtue of the removal of iron ore bearing material from such 40 acre tract or governmental lot. From such report, the commissioner of revenue shall tentatively determine the descriptions of real estate which it appears will not be subject to general ad valorem taxation under the in lieu provisions of subdivision 1 of this section, and certify the same to the appropriate county auditor. As soon as possible after each March 1, the commissioner of revenue shall make a final determination of the descriptions of the real estate which will not be subject to general ad valorem taxation under the in lieu provisions of subdivision 1 of this section, and certify the same to the appropriate county auditor.

Subd. 3. Producer; final report; payment. On or before February 15 of each calendar year the taxpayer shall file with the commissioner of revenue a final report in such form as the commissioner of revenue may prescribe setting forth the description of each 40 acre tract or governmental lot from which such iron bearing material was processed, and the number of tons of concentrate produced from such iron bearing materials from each 40 acre tract or governmental lot. The taxpayer shall pay the tax due on or before the March 1 next following.

Subd. 4. Commissioner of revenue; certification of nonexempt real property. If less than 100,000 tons of concentrates are produced from a 40 acre tract or governmental subdivision which was listed in the report required by subdivision 2 of this section in a calendar year, the commissioner of revenue shall certify such fact to the county auditor of the county in which the affected lands are located. If any of such lands and mining and beneficiating facilities have been treated as exempt from taxation under the provisions of this section, the county auditor shall treat such lands and facilities as omitted property and proceed with collection of the taxes thereon.

[1963 c 735 s 1; 1963 c 841 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.41 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 31 art 12 s 1]

298.42 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 31 art 12 s 1]

298.43 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 31 art 12 s 1]

298.44 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 31 art 12 s 1]

298.45 [Repealed, Ex1971 c 31 art 12 s 1]

298.46 EXPLORATORY DRILLING FOR IRON ORE. Subdivision 1. It is hereby declared to be in the public interest of this state as a whole, and in particular with respect to counties or other political subdivisions, to encourage the location of all deposits of iron ore hitherto unknown to such political subdivisions, that may be susceptible of economic exploitation.

Subd. 2. When in the opinion of the duly constituted authorities of a taxing district there are in existence reserves of unmined iron ore located in such district, these authorities may petition the iron range resources and rehabilitation commission for authority to petition the county assessor to verify the existence of such reserves and to ascertain the value thereof by drilling in a manner consistent with established engineering and geological exploration methods, in order that such taxing district may be able to forecast in a proper manner its future economic and fiscal potentials.

Subd. 3. If the fee owner of the land on which the unmined iron ore is believed to be located, or the owner of a mineral interest therein, refuses to permit the county assessor to ascertain the value of unmined iron ore believed to be located on such land, the county attorney, acting in the name of the county may institute proceedings under chapter 117, for the express purpose of being granted an easement which would permit the county assessor to verify whether or not such land does, in fact, contain reserves of unmined iron ore.

Subd. 4. When the county assessor has verified the existence of reserves of iron ore and has ascertained the value of such reserves, or in the alternative has failed to locate any reserves susceptible of being economically exploited, he shall notify the

county attorney, and the county attorney shall then, by appropriate means, request the district court to discharge the easement secured for the purpose stated above.

Subd. 5. The cost of such exploration or drilling plus any damages to the property which may be assessed by the district court shall be paid by the iron range resources and rehabilitation commission from amounts appropriated to that commission under section 298.22. The iron range resources and rehabilitation commission shall be reimbursed for one-half of the amounts thus expended. Such reimbursement shall be made by the taxing districts in the proportion that each such taxing district's levy on the property involved bears to the total levy on such property. Such reimbursement shall be made to the iron range resources and rehabilitation commission in the manner provided by section 298.221.

Subd. 6. If any taxing district refuses to pay its share of the reimbursement as provided in subdivision 5, the county auditor is hereby authorized to reduce payments required to be made by the county to such taxing district under other provisions of law. Thereafter he shall draw his warrant, which shall be deposited with the state treasury in accordance with section 298.221, to the credit of the iron range resources and rehabilitation commission.

Subd. 7. The provisions of this section shall not apply in the boundary waters canoe area.

[1974 c 365 s 1]

298.47 NOTIFICATION OF COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE OF UNMINED IRON ORE. In the event that the county assessor ascertains that there are in existence reserves of unmined iron ore previously unreported, he shall transmit all the relevant information to the commissioner of revenue as soon as expedient.

[1974 c 365 s 2]

MINING OR PRODUCING COPPER-NICKEL ORES

298.51 OCCUPATION TAX; EXEMPTION FROM TAX UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES 1965, SECTIONS 298.01 AND 298.011; TAX IN LIEU THEREOF; APPORTIONMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS. Subdivision 1. Every person engaged in the business of mining or producing copper-nickel ores in this state shall be exempt from the occupation taxes imposed under Minnesota Statutes 1965, Sections 298.01 and 298.011, but, in lieu of the taxes under said sections, shall pay to the state of Minnesota an occupation tax equal to one percent of the valuation of all such ores mined or produced. Said tax shall be in addition to all other taxes provided for by law and shall be due and payable from such person as provided in section 298.53.

Subd. 2. The proceeds of the tax imposed by this section shall be deposited in the state treasury and apportioned and distributed in accordance with Minnesota Constitution, Article IX, Section 1A, in the following manner: 50 percent to the general fund, 40 percent for the support of elementary and secondary schools and 10 percent for the general support of the university.

[1967 c 671 s 7; 1969 c 399 s 49]

298.52 VALUATION OF ORE; HOW ASCERTAINED. Subdivision 1. The valuation of copper-nickel ores for the purposes of determining the amount of tax to be paid under the provisions of section 298.51 shall be ascertained by subtracting from the value of such ore, at the place where the same is brought to the surface of the earth, such value to be determined by the commissioner of revenue:

(1) The reasonable cost of supplies used and labor performed at the mine in separating the ore from the ore body, including hoisting, elevating or conveying the same to the surface of the earth;

(2) If the ore is taken from an open pit mine, an amount for each ton of ore mined or produced during the year equal to the cost of removing the overburden, divided by the number of tons of ore uncovered, the number of tons of ore uncovered in each case to be determined by the commissioner of revenue;

(3) If the ore is taken from an underground mine, an amount for each ton of ore mined or produced during the year equal to the cost of sinking and constructing shafts and running drifts, divided by the number of tons of ore that can be advantageously taken out through such shafts and drifts, the number of tons of ore that can be advantageously taken out in each case to be determined by the commissioner of revenue;

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(4) The amount of royalties paid on the ore mined or produced during the year; and

(5) The tax payable under section 298.61 on the ore transported to and entering the concentrating mill in said year and any other specific taxes payable in respect of such operations.

The amount or amounts of all of the foregoing subtractions shall be ascertained and determined by the commissioner of revenue.

[1967 c 671 s 8; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.53 COLLECTION AND PAYMENT. The tax provided in section 298.51 shall be collected and paid in the same manner and at the same time as provided by law for the collection and payment of the occupation taxes imposed under Minnesota Statutes 1965, Sections 298.01 and 298.011. Reports shall be made and hearings held upon the determination of the tax at the same times and in the same manner as provided by law for the occupation taxes imposed under sections 298.01 and 298.011. The commissioner of revenue shall have authority to make reasonable regulations as to the form and manner of filing reports necessary for the determination of the tax hereunder, and by such regulations may require the production of such information as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the determination of the tax. All the provisions of the law with reference to the assessment, determination and collection of the occupation tax imposed under sections 298.01 and 298.011 including all provisions for penalties and for appeals from or review of the orders of the commissioner of revenue relative thereto, are hereby made applicable to the tax imposed by section 298.51 except to the extent such provisions are inconsistent herewith.

[1967 c 671 s 9; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.54 CREDIT FOR PROCESSING IN STATE. There shall be allowed a credit against the occupation tax assessed under section 298.51 against any mine of two thirds of one percent of the amount of such tax for each one percent of the total production of copper-nickel ore from said mine which is converted into semi-refined or refined metal, blister copper, copper powder, nickel powder, ferro-nickel, nickel sinter, or other primary or intermediate forms of copper, nickel or copper-nickel metals within the limits of the state of Minnesota.

[1967 c 671 s 10]

298.55 CREDIT FOR RESEARCH, EXPERIMENTATION AND EXPLORATION. A tax credit shall be allowed to each taxpayer against the taxes payable by such taxpayer as computed each year under sections 298.51 and 298.52 for the cost of all research, experimentation, pilot plant tests and exploration work performed in Minnesota in such year for the express purpose of furthering the discovery, development or beneficiation of Minnesota copper-nickel ores.

Such credit shall be computed by applying to such costs and allowances the net effective rate of the occupation tax applicable to such taxpayer for such year imposed pursuant to section 298.51 after the application of the credits against such occupation tax allowed under section 298.54 hereof, but before the application of the credit herein provided.

Any such credit shall be applied against the tax for the year for which such credit is computed except that any such credit in excess of such tax shall be applied in like manner in the next year and thereafter from year to year, but not exceeding two years, until the entire credit has been so applied.

The determination as to what type of costs will qualify under this section, and the amount allowable, will be made by the commissioner of revenue who may use the services of the University of Minnesota School of Mines and Metallurgy which is hereby established as a technical consultant to the commissioner for the purposes hereof.

[1967 c 671 s 11; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.61 TAX ON COPPER-NICKEL. Subdivision 1. There is hereby imposed upon copper-nickel ore, and upon the mining and quarrying thereof, and upon the production of concentrates therefrom, and upon the concentrates so produced, a base tax of two and one-half cents per gross ton of copper-nickel ore transported to and entering the concentrating mill plus ten percent of the base tax per ton for each one-tenth of one percent that the average copper-nickel content per gross ton of such ore during the period for which the tax is being computed, exceeds one percent, when dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

Subd. 2. The rate determined in accordance with subdivision 1 shall be increased in a ratio equal to any increase in the index of Wholesale Prices for all commodities prepared for the Joint Economic Committee by the Council of Economic Advisors, and distributed by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, which shall be computed as follows:

The base index in such determination shall be the average monthly index of all commodities for 1967. The rate of increase, if any, shall be determined by applying the average monthly index of all commodities for the taxable year in which the concentrate is produced, to the base index.

[1967 c 671 s 12]

298.62 TAX AS ADDITIONAL TO OTHER TAXES. The tax imposed under section 298.61 shall be in addition to the occupation tax imposed under section 298.51, the tax imposed under section 299.013 upon royalties received for permission to mine and produce copper-nickel ore, and the income tax under Minnesota Statutes 1965, Chapter 290, as amended by Laws 1967, Chapter 671. Except as herein otherwise provided, such tax shall be in lieu of all other taxes upon such copper-nickel ores, or the lands in which they are contained, or upon the mining or quarrying thereof, or the production of concentrates therefrom, or upon the concentrates produced, or upon the machinery, equipment, tools, supplies and buildings used in such mining, quarrying or production, or upon lands occupied by, or used in connection with, such mining, quarrying or production facilities. Nothing herein shall prevent the assessment and taxation of the surface of reserve land containing copper-nickel ores and not occupied by such facilities or used in connection therewith at the value thereof without regard to the copper-nickel ores therein, nor the assessment and taxation of merchantable iron ore or other minerals, other than copper-nickel minerals and minerals associated therewith in the copper-nickel ores, in such lands in the manner provided by law, nor the assessment and taxation of facilities used in producing sulphur or sulphur products, from iron sulphide concentrates, or in refining such sulphur products, under the general property tax laws. Nothing herein shall except from general taxation or from taxation as provided by other laws any property used for residential or townsite purposes, including utility services thereto.

[1967 c 671 s 13]

298.63 COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF TAX. The tax provided by section 298.61 shall be collected and paid in the same manner and at the same time as provided by law for the collection and payment of the occupation tax under Minnesota Statutes 1965, Sections 298.01 and 298.011. Reports shall be made and hearings held upon the determination of the tax at the same times and in the same manner as provided by law for the occupation tax under sections 298.01 and 298.011. The commissioner of revenue shall have authority to make reasonable regulations as to the form and manner of filing reports necessary for the determination of the tax hereunder, and by such regulations may require the production of such information as may be reasonably necessary or convenient for the determination and apportionment of the tax. All the provisions of the occupation tax law with reference to the assessment, determination and collection of the occupation tax, including all provisions for penalties and for appeals from or review of the orders of the commissioner of revenue relative thereto, are hereby made applicable to the tax imposed by section 298.61, except insofar as inconsistent herewith.

[1967 c 671 s 14; 1973 c 582 s 3]

298.64 DIVISION OF PROCEEDS. The proceeds of the tax collected under section 298.61 shall be distributed by the state treasurer in the same ratio and in the same manner as the tax imposed by Minnesota Statutes 1965, Section 298.24. All of the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1965, Section 298.28, except those inconsistent herewith, are hereby made applicable to the tax imposed by section 298.61.

[1967 c 671 s 15]

298.65 DIVISION OF PROCEEDS IN CERTAIN AREA. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 298.64, that portion of the proceeds of any tax collected under section 298.61 from the mining or concentrating of copper-nickel ore in townships T 61 N-R 10 W, T 61 N-R 11 W, T 62 N-R 10 W, T 62 N-R 11 W, Lake County, distributable to school districts, cities and towns, shall be distributed as follows:

(a) The portion of the proceeds distributable under section 298.64 to school districts shall be distributed between Independent School Districts 381 and 696 in the

following manner: 50 percent to Independent School District 696 and 50 percent to Independent School District 381.

(b) The portion of the proceeds distributable to cities and towns shall be distributed to the nearest city to said mine, or concentrating facility.

[1967 c 671 s 16; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7]

298.66 DECLARATION OF STATE POLICY; LIMITATIONS ON TAXATION.

During the period prescribed in Minnesota Constitution, Article XXI, the combined occupation and royalty taxes imposed or required to be paid under sections 298.51 and 299.013 and the income and excise or franchise taxes imposed or required to be paid under Minnesota Statutes 1965, Chapter 290, as amended by Laws 1967, Chapter 671, Sections 1 to 6, with respect to the mining, production or beneficiation of copper-nickel ore by any person or corporation engaged in such mining, production or beneficiation shall not be increased so as to exceed the combined amount of such taxes if such taxes were computed under the laws in existence as of May 23, 1967, unless income, excise and franchise taxes imposed on manufacturing corporations transacting business within this state as of May 23, 1967, are also increased and then only to the same extent and in the same proportion that income, excise and franchise taxes on such manufacturing corporations are increased, nor shall any other taxes be imposed upon the mining, production or beneficiation of copper-nickel ore or upon any person or corporation engaged in such mining, production or beneficiation unless such other taxes are also imposed with equal effect on such manufacturing corporations. Nothing contained herein shall restrict the power of the legislature to amend, repeal, modify, increase or decrease the taxes imposed or required to be paid with respect to the mining, production or beneficiation of copper-nickel ore by any person or corporation engaged in the mining, production or beneficiation thereof under section 298.61.

[1967 c 671 s 18]

298.67 COPPER-NICKEL ORE DEFINED. As used in Laws 1967, Chapter 671, the term "copper-nickel ore" means any ore in which copper or nickel, or both, constitute the major element or elements of value thereof.

[1967 c 671 s 19]