

CHAPTER 272

TAXATION, GENERAL PROVISIONS

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 apart from land; space above and
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272.02 EXEMPT PROPERTY.

Subdivision 1. All property described in this section to the extent herein limited shall be exempt from taxation:

- (1) All public burying grounds.
- (2) All public schoolhouses.
- (3) All public hospitals.
- (4) All academies, colleges, and universities, and all seminaries of learning.
- (5) All churches, church property, and houses of worship.
- (6) Institutions of purely public charity except parcels of property containing structures and the structures described in section 273.13, subdivision 25, paragraph (c), clauses (1), (2), and (3), or paragraph (d), other than those that qualify for exemption under clause (25).
- (7) All public property exclusively used for any public purpose.
- (8) Except for the taxable personal property enumerated below, all personal property and the property described in section 272.03, subdivision 1, paragraphs (c) and (d), shall be exempt.

The following personal property shall be taxable:

- (a) personal property which is part of an electric generating, transmission, or distribution system or a pipeline system transporting or distributing water, gas, crude oil, or petroleum products or mains and pipes used in the distribution of steam or hot or chilled water for heating or cooling buildings and structures;
- (b) railroad docks and wharves which are part of the operating property of a railroad company as defined in section 270.80;
- (c) personal property defined in section 272.03, subdivision 2, clause (3);
- (d) leasehold or other personal property interests which are taxed pursuant to section 272.01, subdivision 2; 273.124, subdivision 7; or 273.19, subdivision 1; or any other law providing the property is taxable as if the lessee or user were the fee owner;
- (e) manufactured homes and sectional structures, including storage sheds, decks, and similar removable improvements constructed on the site of a manufactured home, sectional structure, park trailer or travel trailer as provided in section 273.125, subdivision 8, paragraph (f); and
- (f) flight property as defined in section 270.071.
- (9) Personal property used primarily for the abatement and control of air, water, or land pollution to the extent that it is so used, and real property which is used primarily for abatement and control of air, water, or land pollution as part of an agricultural operation, as a part of a centralized treatment and recovery facility operating under a permit issued by the Minnesota pollution control agency pursuant to chapters 115 and 116 and Minnesota Rules, parts 7001.0500 to 7001.0730, and 7045.0020 to 7045.1260, as a wastewater treatment facility and for the treatment, recovery, and stabilization of metals, oils, chemicals, water, sludges, or inorganic materials from hazardous industrial wastes, or as part of an electric generation system. For purposes of this clause, personal property includes ponderous machinery and equipment used in a business or production activity that at common law is considered real property.

Any taxpayer requesting exemption of all or a portion of any real property or any equipment or device, or part thereof, operated primarily for the control or abatement of air or water pollution shall file an application with the commissioner of revenue. The equipment or de-

vice shall meet standards, rules, or criteria prescribed by the Minnesota pollution control agency, and must be installed or operated in accordance with a permit or order issued by that agency. The Minnesota pollution control agency shall upon request of the commissioner furnish information or advice to the commissioner. On determining that property qualifies for exemption, the commissioner shall issue an order exempting the property from taxation. The equipment or device shall continue to be exempt from taxation as long as the permit issued by the Minnesota pollution control agency remains in effect.

(10) **Wetlands.** For purposes of this subdivision, "wetlands" means: (i) land described in section 103G.005, subdivision 15a; (ii) land which is mostly under water, produces little if any income, and has no use except for wildlife or water conservation purposes, provided it is preserved in its natural condition and drainage of it would be legal, feasible, and economically practical for the production of livestock, dairy animals, poultry, fruit, vegetables, forage and grains, except wild rice; or (iii) land in a wetland preservation area under sections 103F.612 to 103F.616. "Wetlands" under items (i) and (ii) include adjacent land which is not suitable for agricultural purposes due to the presence of the wetlands, but do not include woody swamps containing shrubs or trees, wet meadows, meandered water, streams, rivers, and floodplains or river bottoms. Exemption of wetlands from taxation pursuant to this section shall not grant the public any additional or greater right of access to the wetlands or diminish any right of ownership to the wetlands.

(11) **Native prairie.** The commissioner of the department of natural resources shall determine lands in the state which are native prairie and shall notify the county assessor of each county in which the lands are located. Pasture land used for livestock grazing purposes shall not be considered native prairie for the purposes of this clause. Upon receipt of an application for the exemption provided in this clause for lands for which the assessor has no determination from the commissioner of natural resources, the assessor shall refer the application to the commissioner of natural resources who shall determine within 30 days whether the land is native prairie and notify the county assessor of the decision. Exemption of native prairie pursuant to this clause shall not grant the public any additional or greater right of access to the native prairie or diminish any right of ownership to it.

(12) Property used in a continuous program to provide emergency shelter for victims of domestic abuse, provided the organization that owns and sponsors the shelter is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1992, notwithstanding the fact that the sponsoring organization receives funding under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended.

(13) If approved by the governing body of the municipality in which the property is located, property not exceeding one acre which is owned and operated by any senior citizen group or association of groups that in general limits membership to persons age 55 or older and is organized and operated exclusively for pleasure, recreation, and other nonprofit purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholders; provided the property is used primarily as a clubhouse, meeting facility, or recreational facility by the group or association and the property is not used for residential purposes on either a temporary or permanent basis.

(14) To the extent provided by section 295.44, real and personal property used or to be used primarily for the production of hydroelectric or hydromechanical power on a site owned by the federal government, the state, or a local governmental unit which is developed and operated pursuant to the provisions of section 103G.535.

(15) If approved by the governing body of the municipality in which the property is located, and if construction is commenced after June 30, 1983:

(a) a "direct satellite broadcasting facility" operated by a corporation licensed by the federal communications commission to provide direct satellite broadcasting services using direct broadcast satellites operating in the 12-ghz. band; and

(b) a "fixed satellite regional or national program service facility" operated by a corporation licensed by the federal communications commission to provide fixed satellite-transmitted regularly scheduled broadcasting services using satellites operating in the 6-ghz. band.

An exemption provided by clause (15) shall apply for a period not to exceed five years. When the facility no longer qualifies for exemption, it shall be placed on the assessment rolls as provided in subdivision 4. Before approving a tax exemption pursuant to this paragraph, the governing body of the municipality shall provide an opportunity to the members of the county board of commissioners of the county in which the facility is proposed to be located and the members of the school board of the school district in which the facility is proposed to be located to meet with the governing body. The governing body shall present to the members of those boards its estimate of the fiscal impact of the proposed property tax exemption. The tax exemption shall not be approved by the governing body until the county board of commissioners has presented its written comment on the proposal to the governing body or 30 days have passed from the date of the transmittal by the governing body to the board of the information on the fiscal impact, whichever occurs first.

(16) Real and personal property owned and operated by a private, nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to United States Code, title 26, section 501(c)(3), primarily used in the generation and distribution of hot water for heating buildings and structures.

(17) Notwithstanding section 273.19, state lands that are leased from the department of natural resources under section 92.46.

(18) Electric power distribution lines and their attachments and appurtenances, that are used primarily for supplying electricity to farmers at retail.

(19) Transitional housing facilities. "Transitional housing facility" means a facility that meets the following requirements. (i) It provides temporary housing to individuals, couples, or families. (ii) It has the purpose of reuniting families and enabling parents or individuals to obtain self-sufficiency, advance their education, get job training, or become employed in jobs that provide a living wage. (iii) It provides support services such as child care, work readiness training, and career development counseling; and a self-sufficiency program with periodic monitoring of each resident's progress in completing the program's goals. (iv) It provides services to a resident of the facility for at least three months but no longer than three years, except residents enrolled in an educational or vocational institution or job training program. These residents may receive services during the time they are enrolled but in no event longer than four years. (v) It is owned and operated or under lease from a unit of government or governmental agency under a property disposition program and operated by one or more organizations exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1992. This exemption applies notwithstanding the fact that the sponsoring organization receives financing by a direct federal loan or federally insured loan or a loan made by the Minnesota housing finance agency under the provisions of either Title II of the National Housing Act or the Minnesota housing finance agency law of 1971 or rules promulgated by the agency pursuant to it, and notwithstanding the fact that the sponsoring organization receives funding under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended.

(20) Real and personal property, including leasehold or other personal property interests, owned and operated by a corporation if more than 50 percent of the total voting power of the stock of the corporation is owned collectively by: (i) the board of regents of the University of Minnesota, (ii) the University of Minnesota Foundation, an organization exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through December 31, 1992, and (iii) a corporation organized under chapter 317A, which by its articles of incorporation is prohibited from providing pecuniary gain to any person or entity other than the regents of the University of Minnesota; which property is used primarily to manage or provide goods, services, or facilities utilizing or relating to large-scale advanced scientific computing resources to the regents of the University of Minnesota and others.

(21)(a) Small scale wind energy conversion systems installed after January 1, 1991, and used as an electric power source are exempt.

"Small scale wind energy conversion systems" are wind energy conversion systems, as defined in section 216C.06, subdivision 12, including the foundation or support pad, which are (i) used as an electric power source; (ii) located within one county and owned by the same

owner; and (iii) produce two megawatts or less of electricity as measured by nameplate ratings.

(b) Medium scale wind energy conversion systems installed after January 1, 1991, are treated as follows: (i) the foundation and support pad are taxable; (ii) the associated supporting and protective structures are exempt for the first five assessment years after they have been constructed, and thereafter, 30 percent of the market value of the associated supporting and protective structures are taxable; and (iii) the turbines, blades, transformers, and its related equipment, are exempt. "Medium scale wind energy conversion systems" are wind energy conversion systems as defined in section 216C.06, subdivision 12, including the foundation or support pad, which are: (i) used as an electric power source; (ii) located within one county and owned by the same owner; and (iii) produce more than two but equal to or less than 12 megawatts of energy as measured by nameplate ratings.

(c) Large scale wind energy conversion systems installed after January 1, 1991, are treated as follows: 25 percent of the market value of all property is taxable, including (i) the foundation and support pad; (ii) the associated supporting and protective structures; and (iii) the turbines, blades, transformers, and its related equipment. "Large scale wind energy conversion systems" are wind energy conversion systems as defined in section 216C.06, subdivision 12, including the foundation or support pad, which are: (i) used as an electric power source; and (ii) produce more than 12 megawatts of energy as measured by nameplate ratings.

(22) Containment tanks, cache basins, and that portion of the structure needed for the containment facility used to confine agricultural chemicals as defined in section 18D.01, subdivision 3, as required by the commissioner of agriculture under chapter 18B or 18C.

(23) Photovoltaic devices, as defined in section 216C.06, subdivision 13, installed after January 1, 1992, and used to produce or store electric power.

(24) Real and personal property owned and operated by a private, nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to United States Code, title 26, section 501(c)(3), primarily used for an ice arena or ice rink, and used primarily for youth and high school programs.

(25) A structure that is situated on real property that is used for:

(i) housing for the elderly or for low- and moderate-income families as defined in Title II of the National Housing Act, as amended through December 31, 1990, and funded by a direct federal loan or federally insured loan made pursuant to Title II of the act; or

(ii) housing lower income families or elderly or handicapped persons, as defined in Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended.

In order for a structure to be exempt under (i) or (ii), it must also meet each of the following criteria:

(A) is owned by an entity which is operated as a nonprofit corporation organized under chapter 317A;

(B) is owned by an entity which has not entered into a housing assistance payments contract under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, or, if the entity which owns the structure has entered into a housing assistance payments contract under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, the contract provides assistance for less than 90 percent of the dwelling units in the structure, excluding dwelling units intended for management or maintenance personnel;

(C) operates an on-site congregate dining program in which participation by residents is mandatory, and provides assisted living or similar social and physical support services for residents; and

(D) was not assessed and did not pay tax under chapter 273 prior to the 1991 levy, while meeting the other conditions of this clause.

An exemption under this clause remains in effect for taxes levied in each year or partial year of the term of its permanent financing.

(26) Real and personal property that is located in the Superior National Forest, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended through

December 31, 1992, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities for disabled veterans and their families.

(27) Manure pits and appurtenances, which may include slatted floors and pipes, installed or operated in accordance with a permit, order, or certificate of compliance issued by the Minnesota pollution control agency. The exemption shall continue for as long as the permit, order, or certificate issued by the Minnesota pollution control agency remains in effect.

(28) Notwithstanding clause (8), item (a), attached machinery and other personal property which is part of a facility containing a cogeneration system as described in section 216B.166, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), if the cogeneration system has met the following criteria: (i) the system utilizes natural gas as a primary fuel and the cogenerated steam initially replaces steam generated from existing thermal boilers utilizing coal; (ii) the facility developer is selected as a result of a procurement process ordered by the public utilities commission; and (iii) construction of the facility is commenced after July 1, 1994, and before July 1, 1997.

(29) Real property acquired by a home rule charter city, statutory city, county, town, or school district under a lease purchase agreement or an installment purchase contract during the term of the lease purchase agreement as long as and to the extent that the property is used by the city, county, town, or school district and devoted to a public use and to the extent it is not subleased to any private individual, entity, association, or corporation in connection with a business or enterprise operated for profit.

[For text of subs 1a to 3, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 4. Conversion to exempt or taxable uses. (a) Any property exempt from taxation on January 2 of any year which, due to sale or other reason, loses its exemption prior to July 1 of any year, shall be placed on the current assessment rolls for that year.

The valuation shall be determined with respect to its value on January 2 of such year. The classification shall be based upon the use to which the property was put by the purchaser, or in the event the purchaser has not utilized the property by July 1, the intended use of the property, determined by the county assessor, based upon all relevant facts.

(b) Property subject to tax on January 2 that is acquired before July 1 of the year is exempt for that assessment year if the property is to be used for an exempt purpose under subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (7).

(c) Property which forfeits to the state for nonpayment of real estate taxes on or before December 31 in an assessment year, shall be removed from the assessment rolls for that assessment year. Forfeited property that is repurchased, or sold at a public or private sale, on or before December 31 of an assessment year shall be placed on the assessment rolls for that year's assessment.

[For text of subs 5 to 8, see M.S.1996]

Subd. 9. Personal property; biomass facility. (a) Notwithstanding clause (8), item (a), of subdivision 1, attached machinery and other personal property, excluding transmission and distribution lines, that is part of a system that generates biomass electric energy that satisfies the mandate, in whole or in part, established in section 216B.2424, or a system that generates electric energy using waste wood, is exempt if it meets the requirements of this subdivision.

(b) The governing bodies of the county, city or town, and school district must each approve, by resolution, the exemption of the personal property under this subdivision. Each of the governing bodies shall file a copy of the resolution with the county auditor. The county auditor shall publish the resolutions in newspapers of general circulation within the county. The voters of the county may request a referendum on the proposed exemption by filing a petition within 30 days after the resolutions are published. The petition must be signed by voters who reside in the county. The number of signatures must equal at least ten percent of the number of persons voting in the county in the last general election. If such a petition is timely filed, the resolutions are not effective until they have been submitted to the voters residing in the county at a general or special election and a majority of votes cast on the ques-

tion of approving the resolution are in the affirmative. The commissioner of revenue shall prepare a suggested form of question to be presented at the referendum.

(c) The exemption under this subdivision is limited to a maximum of five years, beginning with the assessment year immediately following the year during which the personal property is put in operation.

History: 1997 c 31 art 3 s 1; 1997 c 191 art 1 s 9; 1997 c 231 art 2 s 7,8

272.04 MINERAL, GAS, COAL, AND OIL OWNED APART FROM LAND; SPACE ABOVE AND BELOW SURFACE.

Subdivision 1. When any mineral, gas, coal, oil, or other similar interests in real estate are owned separately and apart from and independently of the rights and interests owned in the surface of such real estate, such mineral, gas, coal, oil, or other similar interests may be assessed and taxed separately from such surface rights and interests in such real estate, including but not limited to the taxation provided in section 273.165, subdivision 1. All laws for the enforcement of taxes on real estate apply to such interest.

[For text of subs 2 and 3, see M.S.1996]

History: 1997 c 31 art 3 s 2

272.115 CERTIFICATE OF VALUE; FILING.

Subdivision 1. **Requirement.** Except as otherwise provided in subdivision 5, whenever any real estate is sold for a consideration in excess of \$1,000, whether by warranty deed, quitclaim deed, contract for deed or any other method of sale, the grantor, grantee or the legal agent of either shall file a certificate of value with the county auditor in the county in which the property is located when the deed or other document is presented for recording. Contract for deeds are subject to recording under section 507.235, subdivision 1. Value shall, in the case of any deed not a gift, be the amount of the full actual consideration thereof, paid or to be paid, including the amount of any lien or liens assumed. The items and value of personal property transferred with the real property must be listed and deducted from the sale price. The certificate of value shall include the classification to which the property belongs for the purpose of determining the fair market value of the property. The certificate shall include financing terms and conditions of the sale which are necessary to determine the actual, present value of the sale price for purposes of the sales ratio study. The commissioner of revenue shall promulgate administrative rules specifying the financing terms and conditions which must be included on the certificate. Pursuant to the authority of the commissioner of revenue in section 270.066, the certificate of value must include the social security number or the federal employer identification number of the grantors and grantees. The identification numbers of the grantors and grantees are private data on individuals or nonpublic data as defined in section 13.02, subdivisions 9 and 12, but, notwithstanding that section, the private or nonpublic data may be disclosed to the commissioner of revenue for purposes of tax administration.

Subd. 2. **Form; information required.** The certificate of value shall require such facts and information as may be determined by the commissioner to be reasonably necessary in the administration of the state education aid formulas. The form of the certificate of value shall be prescribed by the department of revenue which shall provide an adequate supply of forms to each county auditor.

Subd. 3. **Copies transmitted; homestead status.** The county auditor shall transmit two true copies of the certificate of value to the assessor who shall insert the most recent market value and when available, the year of original construction of each parcel of property on both copies and shall transmit one copy to the department of revenue. Upon the request of a city council located within the county, a copy of each certificate of value for property located in that city shall be made available to the governing body of the city. The assessor shall remove the homestead classification for the following assessment year from a property which is sold or transferred, unless the grantee or the person to whom the property is transferred completes a homestead application under section 273.124, subdivision 13, and qualifies for homestead status.

Subd. 4. Eligibility for homestead status. No real estate sold or transferred on or after January 1, 1993, under subdivision 1 shall be classified as a homestead, unless (1) a certificate of value has been filed with the county auditor in accordance with this section, or (2) the real estate was conveyed by the federal government, the state, a political subdivision of the state, or combination of them to a person otherwise eligible to receive homestead classification of the property.

This subdivision shall apply to any real estate taxes that are payable the year or years following the sale or transfer of the property.

Subd. 5. Exemption for government bodies. A certificate of real estate value is not required when the real estate is being conveyed to or by a public authority or agency of the federal government, the state of Minnesota, a political subdivision of the state, or any combination of them, provided that the authority, agency, or governmental unit has agreed to file a list of the real estate conveyed by or to the authority, agency, or governmental unit with the commissioner of revenue by June 1 of the year following the year of the conveyance.

History: 1997 c 231 art 2 s 9

272.12 CONVEYANCES, TAXES PAID BEFORE RECORDING.

When:

- (a) a deed or other instrument conveying land,
- (b) a plat of any town site or addition thereto,
- (c) a survey required pursuant to section 508.47,
- (d) a condominium plat subject to chapter 515 or 515A or a declaration that contains such a plat, or
- (e) a common interest community plat subject to chapter 515B or a declaration that contains such a plat,

is presented to the county auditor for transfer, the auditor shall ascertain from the records if there be taxes delinquent upon the land described therein, or if it has been sold for taxes. An assignment of a sheriff's or referee's certificate of sale, when the certificate of sale describes real estate, and certificates of redemption from mortgage or lien foreclosure sales, when the certificate of redemption encompasses real estate and is issued to a junior creditor, are considered instruments conveying land for the purposes of this section and section 272.121. If there are taxes delinquent, the auditor shall certify to the same; and upon payment of such taxes, or in case no taxes are delinquent, shall transfer the land upon the books of the auditor's office, and note upon the instrument, over official signature, the words, "no delinquent taxes and transfer entered," or, if the land described has been sold or assigned to an actual purchaser for taxes, the words "paid by sale of land described within;" and, unless such statement is made upon such instrument, the county recorder or the registrar of titles shall refuse to receive or record the same; provided, that sheriff's or referees' certificates of sale on execution or foreclosure of a lien or mortgage, certificates of redemption from mortgage or lien foreclosure sales issued to the redeeming mortgagor or lienee, deeds of distribution made by a personal representative in probate proceedings, decrees and judgments, receivers receipts, patents, and copies of town or statutory city plats, in case the original plat filed in the office of the county recorder has been lost or destroyed, and the instruments releasing, removing and discharging reversionary and forfeiture provisions affecting title to land and instruments releasing, removing or discharging easement rights in land or building or other restrictions, may be recorded without such certificate; and, provided that instruments conveying land and, as appurtenant thereto an easement over adjacent tract or tracts of land, may be recorded without such certificate as to the land covered by such easement; and provided further, that any instrument granting an easement made in favor of any public utility or pipe line for conveying gas, liquids or solids in suspension, in the nature of a right of way over, along, across or under a tract of land may be recorded without such certificate as to the land covered by such easement. Any instrument amending or restating the declarations, bylaws, plats, or other enabling documents governing homeowners associations of condominiums, townhouses, common interest ownership communities, and other planned unit developments may be recorded without the auditor's certificate.

A deed of distribution made by a personal representative in a probate proceeding, a decree, or a judgment that conveys land shall be presented to the county auditor, who shall transfer the land upon the books of the auditor's office and note upon the instrument, over official signature, the words, "transfer entered", and the instrument may then be recorded. A decree or judgment that affects title to land but does not convey land may be recorded without presentation to the auditor.

A violation of this section by the county recorder or the registrar of titles shall be a gross misdemeanor, and, in addition to the punishment therefor, the recorder or registrar shall be liable to the grantee of any instrument so recorded for the amount of any damages sustained.

When, as a condition to permitting the recording of deed or other instrument affecting the title to real estate previously forfeited to the state under the provisions of sections 281.16 to 281.25, county officials, after such real estate has been purchased or repurchased, have required the payment of taxes erroneously assumed to have accrued against such real estate after forfeiture and before the date of purchase or repurchase, the sum required to be so paid shall be refunded to the persons entitled thereto out of moneys in the funds in which the sum so paid was placed. Delinquent taxes are those taxes deemed delinquent under section 279.02.

History: 1997 c 7 art 1 s 108