

## CHAPTER 287

### MORTGAGE REGISTRY TAX; DEED TAX

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### MORTGAGE REGISTRY TAX

#### 287.01 DEFINITIONS; MORTGAGE REGISTRY TAX.

Subdivision 1. **Words, terms, and phrases.** Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, the following words, terms, and phrases, for the purposes of sections 287.01 to 287.13, have the meanings given them in this section.

Subd. 2. **Amendment.** "Amendment" means generally a document that alters an existing mortgage without securing a new debt, or increasing the amount of an existing debt; and, that does not, in the case of a multistate mortgage described in section 287.05, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), result in an increased percentage of the real property encumbered by the mortgage being located in this state. A document is an amendment if it meets the definition in this subdivision, including documents that do any one or more of the following:

- (i) extends the time for payment of the unpaid portion of the original debt;
- (ii) changes the rate of interest applicable to the unpaid portion of the original debt;
- (iii) adds additional real property as security for the unpaid portion of the original debt;
- (iv) releases some but not all of the real property serving as security for the unpaid portion of the debt;
- (v) replaces all the real property serving as security for the unpaid portion of the debt with other real property regardless of value;

(vi) replaces a party previously bound by the mortgage with a new party who becomes bound by the same amended mortgage; or

(vii) reduces the amount of the debt secured by real property located in this state, or in the case of a multistate mortgage described in section 287.05, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), reduces the percentage of real property encumbered by the mortgage that is located in this state.

Subd. 3. **Debt.** "Debt" means the principal amount of an obligation to pay money that is secured in whole or in part by a mortgage of an interest in real property.

Subd. 4. **Decree of marriage dissolution.** "Decree of marriage dissolution" includes a summary real estate disposition judgment or an instrument made under it.

Subd. 5. **Extension.** "Extension" means any document that alters an existing mortgage by extending the time for repayment without increasing the amount of debt secured by real property that is located in this state.

Subd. 6. **Mortgage.** "Mortgage" means any instrument, including a decree of marriage dissolution or an instrument made under it, creating or evidencing a lien of any kind on real property, given by an owner of real property as security for a debt, notwithstanding that the debt may also be secured in part by a lien upon personalty.

Subd. 7. **Multistate mortgage.** "Multistate mortgage" means a mortgage that encumbers real property located both in and outside of this state.

Subd. 8. **Person.** "Person" includes any individual, partner, officer, director, firm, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, association, cooperative, social club, fraternal organization, municipal or private corporation, whether organized for profit or not, estate, trusts, business trusts, receiver, trustee, syndicate, the United States, a state, any political subdivision of a state, or any group or combination acting as a unit, and the plural as well as the singular. The term includes any agent of any individual or organization enumerated in this subdivision.

Subd. 9. **Real property, real estate, and land.** "Real property," "real estate," and "land" have the meanings contained in chapter 500, and include all interests in real property that can be conveyed by a document which may be recorded.

Subd. 10. **Record, recorded, and recording.** "Record," "recorded," and "recording" each mean that a document has been delivered to and filed in the office of the county recorder or registrar of titles, whichever office maintains the records for the real property described in the document.

**History:** (2322) 1907 c 328 s 1; 1965 c 51 s 51; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1983 c 233 s 1; 1990 c 575 s 1; 1999 c 31 s 1; 1999 c 243 art 16 s 11; 2000 c 490 art 10 s 2

**287.02** [Repealed, 1987 c 268 art 14 s 25]

### **287.03 INSTRUMENTS VALID SECURITY FOR DEBT.**

No instrument, other than a decree of marriage dissolution or an instrument made pursuant to it, relating to real estate may be enforced as security for any debt, unless the fact that it is so intended is expressed in it. Except as provided in section 287.05, an instrument may not be enforced as security for a debt amount in excess of: (1) the initial known amount of the debt expressed in the instrument if the instrument secures

that entire debt amount; or (2) the portion of the initial known amount of the debt expressed in the instrument if the instrument secures only a portion of that debt amount.

**History:** (2322) 1907 c 328 s 1; 1983 c 233 s 2; 1999 c 31 s 2; 2010 c 211 s 1

### **287.035 IMPOSITION OF TAX.**

A tax is imposed on the privilege of recording a mortgage. The tax rate is .0023 of the debt or portion of a debt that is secured by any recorded mortgage of real property located in this state. The person liable for the tax is the mortgagor. The tax is not imposed on the lawful interest amounts that may accrue with respect to a debt.

**History:** 1999 c 31 s 3; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 24

### **287.04 EXEMPTIONS.**

The tax imposed by section 287.035 does not apply to:

- (1) a decree of marriage dissolution or an instrument made pursuant to it;
- (2) a mortgage given to correct a misdescription of the mortgaged property;
- (3) a mortgage or other instrument that adds additional security for the same debt for which mortgage registry tax has been paid;
- (4) a contract for the conveyance of any interest in real property, including a contract for deed;
- (5) a mortgage secured by real property subject to the minerals production tax of sections 298.24 to 298.28;
- (6) a mortgage loan made under a low and moderate income housing program, or other affordable housing program, if: (i) the mortgagee is a federal, state, or local government agency; or (ii) the assignee is a federal, state, or local government agency;
- (7) mortgages granted by fraternal benefit societies subject to section 64B.24;
- (8) a mortgage amendment or extension, as defined in section 287.01;
- (9) an agricultural mortgage if the proceeds of the loan secured by the mortgage are used to acquire or improve real property classified under section 273.13, subdivision 23, paragraph (a) or (b); and
- (10) a mortgage on an armory building as set forth in section 193.147.

**History:** (2322) 1907 c 328 s 1; 1965 c 51 s 53; 1967 c 340 s 1; 1983 c 233 s 3; 1993 c 271 s 4; 1999 c 31 s 4; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 25; 2005 c 151 art 8 s 1; 2009 c 88 art 9 s 1; 1Sp2021 c 14 art 13 s 10

### **287.05 DETERMINATION OF TAX IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Real property outside Minnesota.** (a) When a multistate mortgage is intended to secure only a portion of a debt amount recited or referred to in the mortgage, the mortgage may contain the following statement, or its equivalent, on the first page: "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, enforcement of this mortgage in Minnesota is limited to a debt amount of \$..... under chapter 287 of Minnesota Statutes." In such case, the tax shall be imposed based only on the amount of debt so stated to be secured by real property located in this state; and, the effect of the mortgage, or any amendment or extension, as evidence in any court in this state, or as notice for any purpose in this state, shall be limited to the amount contained

in the statement and for which the tax has been paid and additional amounts for accrued interest and advances not subject to tax under subdivision 4 or section 287.035.

(b) All multistate mortgages not taxed under paragraph (a) shall be taxed under sections 287.01 to 287.13 as if the real property identified in the mortgage secures payment of that portion of the maximum debt amount referred to, or incorporated by reference, in the mortgage that is equal to a fraction the numerator of which is the value of the real property described in the mortgage that is located in this state and the denominator of which is the value of all the real property described in the mortgage.

Subd. 1a. **Real property in this state secures portion of debt.** (a) When the real property identified in a mortgage is located entirely in this state and is intended to secure only a portion of a debt amount recited or referred to in the mortgage, the mortgage may contain the following statement, or its equivalent, on the first page: "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, enforcement of this mortgage is limited to a debt amount of \$..... under chapter 287 of Minnesota Statutes." In such case, the tax shall be imposed based only on the amount of debt so stated to be secured by real property; and, the effect of the mortgage, or any amendment or extension, as evidence in any court in this state, or as notice for any purpose in this state, shall be limited to the amount contained in the statement and for which the tax has been paid and additional amounts for accrued interest and advances not subject to tax under subdivision 4 or section 287.035.

(b) All mortgages that are not multistate mortgages and that are not taxed under paragraph (a) shall be taxed under sections 287.01 to 287.13 as if the real property identified in the mortgage secures payment of the maximum debt amount referred to, or incorporated by reference, in the mortgage.

Subd. 2. **Supplemental mortgages.** (a) Except for an amendment or a revision to a reverse mortgage as described under subdivision 6, any document that alters an existing mortgage by providing for an increase in the amount of debt secured by real property located in this state, or, in the case of a multistate mortgage described in subdivision 1, paragraph (b), an increase in the percentage of Minnesota real estate as compared to the total real estate that is encumbered by the mortgage, shall be taxed based upon the increase in the amount of the debt determined to be secured by real property located in this state under either subdivision 1 or 1a.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision 3, any document that alters an existing mortgage to secure debt that was (i) advanced, (ii) repaid in whole or in part, and (iii) then readvanced in whole or in part, shall be taxed based upon the new amounts advanced, even if the maximum debt previously secured by the mortgage is not exceeded.

Subd. 3. **Revolving lines of credit.** When a mortgage, including a reverse mortgage, secures a revolving line of credit under which advances, payments, and readvances may be made from time to time, the tax imposed under section 287.035 must be paid on the maximum amount of the line of credit that may be secured at any one time, as expressed in the mortgage, regardless of the time or amount of advances, payments, or readvances.

Subd. 4. **Advances by mortgagee.** No tax under section 287.035 shall be paid on the indeterminate amount that may be advanced by the mortgagee in protection of the mortgaged premises or the mortgage, including taxes, assessments, charges, claims, fines, impositions, and insurance premiums; the amounts due upon prior or superior mortgages and other prior or superior liens, encumbrances, and interests; and legal expenses and attorneys' fees.

Subd. 5. **Indeterminate amounts.** When a mortgage secures an indeterminate amount other than those described in subdivision 3, 4, or 6, no tax shall be paid at the time the mortgage is recorded, but the tax must

be paid at the time of recording an affidavit or other document stating the amount and time of the actual advance.

**Subd. 6. Reverse mortgages.** If real property secures a reverse mortgage, the principal debt or obligation to which mortgage registry tax applies is the expected total disbursements or cash equivalent to be made under the terms of the loan. Interest accruing on the disbursements made is not subject to mortgage registry tax. In the case of periodic payments made for an indefinite length of time, the expected total disbursements must equal the product of the periodic payment amounts and the number of payments and, if applicable, the amount of cash distribution or its equivalent. The number of payments must be based upon the life expectancy assumption used in determining the payment amount. In the case of reverse mortgages made as part of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, section 255 of the National Housing Act, and administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), mortgage registry tax must not be assessed on Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance premiums, monthly lender service fees, or payments to be distributed to the borrower by HUD.

**Subd. 7. Mortgages to secure obligations to be issued.** If a mortgage is made to a mortgagee in trust to secure the payment of bonds or other obligations yet to be issued, a statement may be incorporated in the mortgage stating the amount of the obligations already issued or yet to be issued, and the tax to be paid on filing the mortgage for recording must be computed upon the amount so stated. The statement must be binding and conclusive upon all persons claiming through or under the mortgage, and no such obligation issued in excess of the aggregate so fixed is valid for any purpose unless the additional tax is paid and receipted by the proper county treasurer.

**Subd. 8. Amendments.** An amendment may contain the following statement, or its equivalent, on its first page: "This is a mortgage amendment, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 287.01, subdivision 2, and as such it does not secure a new or an increased amount of debt." In such cases, the document will be treated as a mortgage amendment, as defined in section 287.01, subdivision 2, for all purposes and does not serve to secure a new or an increased amount of debt.

**Subd. 9. Modification of mortgage.** If a mortgage, or a document modifying a mortgage, contains more than one statement that purports to limit: the enforcement of the mortgage to a certain dollar amount; the tax imposed on the mortgage under this chapter; or the effect of a modifying document, including but not limited to the statements authorized in subdivisions 1, 1a, and 8, then the tax must be imposed based on the combined effect, if any, of all the statements.

**Subd. 10. Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.** For properties located in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, the county may impose an additional mortgage registry tax as defined in sections 383A.80 and 383B.80.

**History:** (2323) 1907 c 328 s 2; 1913 c 163 s 1; 1917 c 73 s 1; 1921 c 445 s 1; 1945 c 288 s 1; 1951 c 591 s 1; 1957 c 167 s 1; 1961 c 499 s 1; 1967 c 340 s 2; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1983 c 342 art 2 s 24; 1984 c 502 art 14 s 7-9; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 1; 1987 c 268 art 14 s 13; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 147; 1991 c 291 art 20 s 2; 1999 c 31 s 5; 1999 c 243 art 16 s 12,13; 2009 c 88 art 9 s 2; 2011 c 112 art 5 s 7; 2013 c 143 art 4 s 26

**287.06** [Repealed, 1999 c 31 s 26]

**287.07** [Repealed, 1999 c 31 s 26]

## **287.08 TAX, HOW PAYABLE; RECEIPTS.**

(a) The tax imposed by sections 287.01 to 287.12 must be paid to the treasurer of any county in this state in which the real property or some part is located at or before the time of filing the mortgage for record. The treasurer shall endorse receipt on the mortgage and the receipt is conclusive proof that the tax has been

paid in the amount stated and authorizes any county recorder or registrar of titles to record the mortgage. Its form, in substance, shall be "registration tax hereon of ..... dollars paid." If the mortgage is exempt from taxation the endorsement shall, in substance, be "exempt from registration tax." In either case the receipt must be signed by the treasurer. In case the treasurer is unable to determine whether a claim of exemption should be allowed, the tax must be paid as in the case of a taxable mortgage. For documents submitted electronically, the endorsements and tax amount shall be affixed electronically and no signature by the treasurer will be required. The actual payment method must be arranged in advance between the submitter and the receiving county.

(b) The county treasurer may refund in whole or in part any mortgage registry tax overpayment if a written application by the taxpayer is submitted to the county treasurer within 3-1/2 years from the date of the overpayment. If the county has not issued a denial of the application, the taxpayer may bring an action in Tax Court in the county in which the tax was paid at any time after the expiration of six months from the time that the application was submitted. A denial of refund may be appealed within 60 days from the date of the denial by bringing an action in Tax Court in the county in which the tax was paid. The action is commenced by the serving of a petition for relief on the county treasurer, and by filing a copy with the court. The county attorney shall defend the action. The county treasurer shall notify the treasurer of each county that has or would receive a portion of the tax as paid.

(c) If the county treasurer determines a refund should be paid, or if a refund is ordered by the court, the county treasurer of each county that actually received a portion of the tax shall immediately pay a proportionate share of three percent of the refund using any available county funds. The county treasurer of each county that received, or would have received, a portion of the tax shall also pay their county's proportionate share of the remaining 97 percent of the court-ordered refund on or before the 20th day of the following month using solely the mortgage registry tax funds that would be paid to the commissioner of revenue on that date under section 287.12. If the funds on hand under this procedure are insufficient to fully fund 97 percent of the court-ordered refund, the county treasurer of the county in which the action was brought shall file a claim with the commissioner of revenue under section 16A.48 for the remaining portion of 97 percent of the refund, and shall pay over the remaining portion upon receipt of a payment from the state issued pursuant to the claim.

(d) When any mortgage covers real property located in more than one county in this state the total tax must be paid to the treasurer of the county where the mortgage is first presented for recording, and the payment must be receipted as provided in paragraph (a). If the principal debt or obligation secured by such a multiple county mortgage exceeds \$10,000,000, the nonstate portion of the tax must be remitted by the county treasurer receiving the tax to the commissioner of revenue with the state tax due under section 287.12. The commissioner shall determine the nonstate portion of the tax owed to each county in the ratio that the estimated market value of the real property covered by the mortgage in each county bears to the estimated market value of all the real property in this state described in the mortgage. The commissioner shall pay each county within 60 days of receiving the tax from the county that collected the tax. In making the division and payment the commissioner of revenue shall send a statement giving the description of the real property described in the mortgage and the estimated market value of the part located in each county. For this purpose, the commissioner of revenue may require the treasurer of any county to certify to the former the estimated market value of any tract of real property in any mortgage in the county.

(e) The mortgagor must pay the tax imposed by sections 287.01 to 287.12. The mortgagee may undertake to collect and remit the tax on behalf of the mortgagor. If the mortgagee collects money from the mortgagor to remit the tax on behalf of the mortgagor, the mortgagee has a fiduciary duty to remit the tax on behalf of

the mortgagor as to the amount of the tax collected for that purpose and the mortgagor is relieved of any further obligation to pay the tax as to the amount collected by the mortgagee for this purpose.

**History:** (2326) 1907 c 328 s 5; 1965 c 51 s 55; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1983 c 222 s 21; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 2; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82; 1997 c 84 art 1 s 2; 1998 c 389 art 3 s 15; 1999 c 31 s 6; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 26; 2008 c 238 art 3 s 3; 2009 c 88 art 12 s 3; 2013 c 143 art 14 s 41; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 11 s 2; 1Sp2019 c 10 art 3 s 40

**287.09** [Repealed, 1999 c 31 s 26]

### **287.10 PREPAYMENT OF TAX; EVIDENCE; NOTICE.**

A mortgage, or documents relating to its foreclosure, assignment, or satisfaction, must not be recorded unless the tax has been paid. Except as provided in section 582.25, a document or any record of the mortgage may not be received in evidence in any court, and is not valid notice, unless the tax has been paid. If the tax is paid, an error in computation or ascertainment of the amount does not affect the validity of the mortgage or the record or foreclosure. This section does not apply to a mortgage that is exempt from the tax imposed under section 287.035.

**History:** (2328) 1907 c 328 s 7; 1913 c 163 s 2; 1929 c 222 s 1; 1Sp1985 c 18 s 3; 1987 c 268 art 14 s 14; 1999 c 31 s 7

### **287.11 MORTGAGES RECORDED OR REGISTERED PRIOR TO PASSAGE OF SECTIONS**

#### **287.01 TO 287.12.**

All mortgages of real property recorded prior to the passage of sections 287.01 to 287.12 are taxable under the provisions of law existing prior to the enactment of sections 287.01 to 287.12; provided, that the holder of any such mortgage may pay to the treasurer of the proper county the tax based upon the amount of the debt secured by the mortgage at the time of the payment as stated by the affidavit of the owner of the mortgage. The affidavit may be filed with the county treasurer, in which case the treasurer's receipt must be endorsed on it. The county recorder or registrar of titles, on presentation of the receipt, shall make a record of the date and amount of the payment. Thereafter the mortgage lien shall not be otherwise taxable.

**History:** (2329) 1907 c 328 s 8; 1913 c 163 s 3; 1965 c 51 s 56; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1999 c 31 s 8

### **287.12 TAXES, HOW APPORTIONED.**

(a) All taxes paid to the county treasurer under the provisions of sections 287.01 to 287.12 must be apportioned, 97 percent to the general fund of the state, and three percent to the county revenue fund.

(b) On or before the 20th day of each month the county treasurer shall determine and pay to the commissioner of revenue for deposit in the state treasury and credit to the general fund the state's portion of the receipts from the mortgage registry tax during the preceding month subject to the electronic payment requirements of section 270C.42. The county treasurer shall provide any related reports requested by the commissioner of revenue.

(c) Counties must remit the state's portion of the June receipts collected through June 25 and the estimated state's portion of the receipts to be collected during the remainder of the month to the commissioner of revenue two business days before June 30 of each year. The remaining amount of the June receipts is due on August 20.

**History:** (2330) 1907 c 328 s 9; 1913 c 352 s 1; 1963 c 713 s 1; 1965 c 51 s 57; 1969 c 399 s 49; 1973 c 650 art 5 s 1; 1981 c 164 s 1; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 4; 1Sp1986 c 1 art 4 s 36; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 148;

*1989 c 282 art 1 s 19; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 3 s 24; 1999 c 31 s 9; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 17 s 6; 1Sp2003 c 21 art 9 s 4; 2005 c 151 art 2 s 17*

### **287.13 VIOLATIONS; CIVIL PENALTIES.**

Subdivision 1. **Failure to pay full amount.** Any person liable for the tax imposed by section 287.035 who fails to pay the full amount of mortgage registry tax imposed under this chapter, unless the failure is shown to be due to reasonable cause, is liable for a civil penalty of \$250 or 100 percent of the tax for each such failure, whichever is less.

Subd. 2. **Additional penalty.** Any person who willfully attempts to evade or defeat the tax imposed under sections 287.01 to 287.12, or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to the penalty provided in subdivision 1, be liable for a penalty of 50 percent of the total amount of the underpayment of the tax.

Subd. 3. **Payment to mortgagee.** If a mortgagee undertakes to collect from the mortgagor the amount of the tax due under sections 287.01 to 287.12 as provided in section 287.08, paragraph (e), the mortgagor is not subject to the penalties under this section and the mortgagee is subject to the provisions of this section.

**History:** *1997 c 84 art 6 s 17; 1999 c 31 s 10; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 27*

## **DEED TAX**

### **287.20 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Words, terms, and phrases.** Unless the language or context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended, the following words, terms, and phrases, for the purposes of sections 287.21 to 287.31, have the meanings given to them in this section.

Subd. 2. **Consideration.** (a) "Consideration" means generally the total monetary value that is given in return for a conveyance of real property in this state and includes all lump-sum payments, all prior or future installment payments that are required under the agreement between the parties, and the fair market value of any property taken, or to be taken, in exchange.

(b) Consideration does not include the reasonable and lawful amounts of interest paid for the privilege of paying the purchase price in installments and the fair market value of any items of intangible personal property that are conveyed by the taxable instrument.

(c) Consideration does not include the amount paid for the personal property located on the real property being conveyed and transferred as a part of the total consideration, except that the amount paid for the personal property located on the real property being conveyed must be included if the real property being conveyed is a one-, two-, or three-unit residential structure.

(d) When a conveyance of real property is made pursuant to a contract for deed, the consideration is the price for the real property reflected in the contract; except that, subject to the limitations under section 287.221, if the contract for deed, or other agreement entered into as a condition to the seller executing the contract, requires the property to be improved during the term of the contract and the price of the real property as reflected in the contract does not include the consideration for the required improvements, then the consideration is the price for the real property as reflected in the contract and the consideration for the required improvements added during the term of the contract.

(e) "Total consideration" has the same meaning as consideration.



(f) "Consideration, exclusive of the value of any lien or encumbrance remaining at the time of sale" or "net consideration" means the amount of consideration as reduced by the amount outstanding under any lien that attached to the real property prior to the time of sale and that is not released or satisfied as a result of the sale.

(g) Except in the case of a gift, when the amount of the consideration for a conveyance includes something other than money or promises to pay money, the consideration for that conveyance is rebuttably presumed to equal the fair market value of the real property being conveyed.

Subd. 3. **Consolidation or merger.** "Consolidation" or "merger" means the combination of all of the assets of two or more corporations, limited liability companies, or partnerships, or any combination of these entities, whether or not title to the assets is taken by a newly created entity or by a preexisting entity that survives the consolidation or merger in an altered form.

Subd. 3a. **Designated transfer.** "Designated transfer" means any of the following:

- (1) a transfer between (i) an entity owned by a sole owner, and (ii) that sole owner;
- (2) a transfer between (i) an entity in which one or both spouses who are married to each other are the sole owners, and (ii) one or both of the spouses;
- (3) a transfer between (i) an entity with multiple co-owners, and (ii) all of the co-owners, so long as each of the co-owners maintains the same percentage ownership interest in the transferred real property, whether directly or through ownership of a percentage of the entity;
- (4) a transfer between (i) a revocable trust, and (ii) the grantor or grantors of the revocable trust; or
- (5) a transfer of substantially all of the assets of one or more entities pursuant to a reorganization, as defined in section 287.20, subdivision 9.

For purposes of this definition of designated transfer, an interest in an entity that is owned, directly or indirectly, by or for another entity shall be considered as being owned proportionately by or for the owners of the other entity under provisions similar to those of section 267(c)(1) and (5) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 2014 c 308 art 9 s 94]

Subd. 5. **Lien.** "Lien" means any legal claim, other than an easement, created by contract, statute, or law on the real property of another as security for a debt or obligation. For purposes of the deed tax, the term "encumbrance" is synonymous with the term "lien" and an easement is not a lien.

Subd. 5a. **Partition.** "Partition" means the division by conveyance of real property that is held jointly or in common by two or more persons into individually owned interests. If one of the co-owners gives consideration for all or a part of the individually owned interest conveyed to them, that portion of the conveyance is not a part of the partition.

Subd. 6. **Person.** "Person" includes any individual, partner, officer, director, firm, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, association, cooperative, social club, fraternal organization, municipal or private corporation, whether organized for profit or not, estate, trusts, business trusts, receiver, trustee, syndicate, the United States, a state, any political subdivision of a state, or any group or combination acting as a unit, and the plural as well as the singular. The term includes directors and officers of corporations, governors and managers of a limited liability company, or members of partnerships who, either individually or jointly with others, have control, supervision, or responsibility of making or authorizing payment of the

tax imposed by section 287.21. The term includes any agent of any individual or organization enumerated in this subdivision.

**Subd. 7. Real property, real estate, and land.** "Real property," "real estate," and "land" mean any fee simple estate, and any estate for life, as defined in chapter 500, and the purchaser's interest under a contract for the conveyance of such an estate.

**Subd. 8. Record, recorded, and recording.** "Record," "recorded," and "recording" each mean that a document has been delivered to and filed in the office of the county recorder or registrar of titles, whichever office maintains the records for the real property described in the document.

**Subd. 9. Reorganization.** "Reorganization" means the transfer of substantially all of the assets of a corporation, a limited liability company, or a partnership not in the usual or regular course of business if at the time of the transfer the transfer qualifies as: (i) a corporate reorganization under section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; or (ii) a transfer from a partnership to another partnership when the transferee is treated as a continuation of the transferor under section 708 of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Subd. 10. Internal Revenue Code.** Unless specifically defined otherwise, "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code as defined in section 289A.02, subdivision 7.

**History:** 1999 c 31 s 11; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 28,29; 1Sp2005 c 3 art 6 s 1-3; 2008 c 366 art 11 s 14-16; 2013 c 143 art 16 s 1; 2014 c 266 s 1

## **287.21 IMPOSITION OF TAX; DETERMINATION OF TAX.**

Subdivision 1. **Determination of tax.** (a) A tax is imposed on each deed or instrument by which any real property in this state is granted, assigned, transferred, or otherwise conveyed. The tax applies against the net consideration. For purposes of the tax, the conversion of a corporation to a limited liability company, a limited liability company to a corporation, a partnership to a limited partnership, a limited partnership to another limited partnership or other entity, or a similar conversion of one entity to another does not grant, assign, transfer, or convey real property.

(b) The tax is determined in the following manner: (1) when transfers are made by instruments pursuant to (i) consolidations or mergers, or (ii) designated transfers, the tax is \$1.65; (2) when there is no consideration or when the consideration, exclusive of the value of any lien or encumbrance remaining thereon at the time of sale, is \$3,000 or less, the tax is \$1.65; or (3) when the consideration, exclusive of the value of any lien or encumbrance remaining at the time of sale, exceeds \$3,000, the tax is .0033 of the net consideration.

(c) If, within six months from the date of a designated transfer, an ownership interest in the grantee entity is transferred by an initial owner to any person or entity with the result that the designated transfer would not have been a designated transfer if made to the grantee entity with its subsequent ownership, then a tax is imposed at .0033 of the net consideration for the designated transfer. If the subsequent transfer of ownership interests was reasonably expected at the time of the designated transfer, the applicable penalty under section 287.31, subdivision 1, must be paid. The deed tax imposed under this paragraph is due within 30 days of the subsequent transfer that caused the tax to be imposed under this paragraph. Involuntary transfers of ownership shall not be considered transfers of ownership under this paragraph. The commissioner may adopt rules defining the types of transfers to be considered involuntary.

(d) The tax is due at the time a taxable deed or instrument is presented for recording, except as provided in paragraph (c). The commissioner may require the tax to be documented in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, and may require that the documentation be attached to and recorded as part of the deed or instrument. The county recorder or registrar of titles shall accept the attachment for recording as part of the

deed or instrument and may not require, as a condition of recording a deed or instrument, evidence that a transfer is a designated transfer in addition to that required by the commissioner. Such an attachment shall not, however, provide actual or constructive notice of the information contained therein for purposes of determining any interest in the real property. The commissioner shall prescribe the manner in which the tax due under paragraph (c) is to be paid and may require grantees of designated transfers to file with the commissioner subsequent statements verifying that the tax provided under paragraph (c) does not apply.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1999 c 31 s 26]

Subd. 3. [Expired]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1999 c 31 s 26]

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 1; Ex1967 c 32 art 11 s 1; 1969 c 399 s 24; 1973 c 118 s 1; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 5; 1987 c 268 art 14 s 15; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 149; 1988 c 719 art 19 s 13; 1990 c 480 art 7 s 23; 1993 c 375 art 3 s 39; 1999 c 31 s 12; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 30; 1Sp2005 c 3 art 6 s 4; 1Sp2019 c 6 art 4 s 24

## 287.22 EXEMPTIONS.

The tax imposed by section 287.21 does not apply to:

- (1) an executory contract for the sale of real property under which the purchaser is entitled to or does take possession of the real property, or any assignment or cancellation of the contract;
- (2) a mortgage or an amendment, assignment, extension, partial release, or satisfaction of a mortgage;
- (3) a will;
- (4) a plat;
- (5) a lease, amendment of lease, assignment of lease, or memorandum of lease;
- (6) a deed, instrument, or writing in which the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof is the grantor, assignor, transferor, conveyor, grantee, or assignee;
- (7) a deed for a cemetery lot or lots;
- (8) a deed of distribution by a personal representative;
- (9) a deed to or from a co-owner partitioning their undivided interest in the same piece of real property;
- (10) a deed or other instrument of conveyance issued pursuant to a permanent school fund land exchange under section 92.122 and related laws;
- (11) a referee's or sheriff's certificate of sale in a mortgage or lien foreclosure sale;
- (12) a referee's, sheriff's, or certificate holder's certificate of redemption from a mortgage or lien foreclosure sale issued under section 580.23 or other statute applicable to redemption by an owner of real property;
- (13) a deed, instrument, or writing which grants, creates, modifies, or terminates an easement;
- (14) a decree of marriage dissolution, as defined in section 287.01, subdivision 4, or a deed or other instrument between the parties to the dissolution made pursuant to the terms of the decree; and

(15) a transfer on death deed under section 507.071, and any affidavit or other document to the extent it references a transfer on death deed.

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 2; 1963 c 249 s 1; 1971 c 835 s 1; 1975 c 347 s 1; 1984 c 590 s 1; 1987 c 268 art 14 s 16; 1991 c 291 art 21 s 11; 1993 c 375 art 3 s 40; 1997 c 31 art 3 s 13; 1997 c 231 art 16 s 9; 1999 c 31 s 13; 2008 c 154 art 14 s 3; 2008 c 341 art 2 s 4; 2009 c 88 art 9 s 3; 1Sp2019 c 4 art 3 s 118

#### **287.2205 TAX-FORFEITED LAND.**

Before a state deed for tax-forfeited land may be issued, the deed tax must be paid by the purchaser of tax-forfeited land whether the purchase is the result of a public auction or private sale or a repurchase of tax-forfeited land. State agencies and local units of government that acquire tax-forfeited land by purchase or any other means are subject to this section. The deed tax is \$1.65 for a conveyance of tax-forfeited lands to a governmental subdivision for an authorized public use under section 282.01, subdivision 1a, for a school forest under section 282.01, subdivision 1a, or for redevelopment purposes under section 282.01, subdivision 1b.

**History:** 1999 c 31 s 14; 2008 c 154 art 14 s 4; 1Sp2017 c 1 art 16 s 22

#### **287.221 NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION.**

The commissioner of revenue may not enforce a deed tax assessment on the consideration paid for an improvement in the case of new residential construction if, at or before the time the first residential owners of the improvement take possession, the deed tax has been paid on the consideration paid for the improvement.

**History:** 1997 c 231 art 16 s 10

#### **287.222 TRANSFER TO OBTAIN FINANCING.**

The deed tax is \$1.65 on a deed or other instrument that transfers real property if the transfer is (1) to a person who is a builder or contractor, (2) intended to be temporary, and (3) done solely to enable the builder or contractor to obtain financing to build an improvement on the conveyed property under a contract for improvement with the grantor that calls for the conveyed property to be reconveyed to the grantor upon completion of and payment for the improvement. The deed tax is \$1.65 on a deed or other instrument that transfers the real property back from the builder or contractor to the grantor.

**History:** 2006 c 259 art 7 s 2

#### **287.223 HENNEPIN AND RAMSEY COUNTIES.**

For properties located in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, the county may impose an additional deed tax as defined in sections 383A.80 and 383B.80.

**History:** 2013 c 143 art 4 s 27

#### **287.23 REAL PROPERTY OUTSIDE COUNTY OR STATE.**

Subdivision 1. **Real property outside county.** If any taxable deed or instrument describes any real property located in more than one county in this state, the total tax must be paid to the treasurer of the county where the document is first presented for recording, and the payment must be receipted as provided in section 287.08. If the net consideration exceeds \$700,000, the nonstate portion of the tax must be divided and paid over by the county treasurer receiving it, on or before the 20th day of each month after receipt, to the county or counties entitled in the ratio which the estimated market value of the real property covered by the document

in each county bears to the estimated market value of all the real property in this state described in the document. In making the division and payment the county treasurer shall send a statement to the other involved counties giving the description of the real property described in the document and the estimated market value of the part located in each county. The treasurer of any county may require the treasurer of any other county to certify to the former the estimated market value of any parcel of real property for this purpose.

**Subd. 2. Real property outside state.** If any deed or instrument describes any real property located outside of this state, the tax imposed by section 287.21 must be measured upon such proportion of the consideration, exclusive of the value of any lien or encumbrance remaining at the time of sale, as the value of the real property described in this state bears to the value of the whole of the real property described in the deed or instrument.

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 3; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 6; 1999 c 31 s 15; 2013 c 143 art 14 s 42

#### **287.24 PERSONS LIABLE.**

**Subdivision 1. General rule.** Any person who grants, assigns, transfers, or conveys any real property by a deed or instrument subject to the tax imposed by section 287.21 shall be liable for such tax but no public official shall be liable for a tax with respect to any instrument executed by the official in connection with official duties.

**Subd. 2. Other responsible persons.** If an underpayment is assessable by the commissioner of revenue against a grantor pursuant to section 287.37, and the grantor is a business entity no longer in existence, any person who, either individually or jointly with others, had control over, supervision of, or responsibility for making the statement of tax due or exemption from tax that was submitted to the county treasurer under section 287.241, subdivision 1, can be assessed and held liable by the commissioner for the underpayment.

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 4; 1986 c 444; 1999 c 31 s 16

#### **287.241 STATEMENT OF TAX DUE OR EXEMPTION; RECORDING OR REGISTERING OF DOCUMENTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Statement of tax due or exemption.** No deed or instrument, taxable under the provisions of section 287.21, shall be recorded unless it contains the statement of the grantor or grantee, or any successor in interest, setting forth the amount of tax due under this chapter or that it is exempt from tax. The county recorder or registrar of titles shall record any deed or instrument when the statement sets forth that the transfer is tax exempt, or when documentary stamps or the treasurer's receipt appear for the amount of deed tax recited in the statement. Deeds or other instruments taxable under section 287.21 recorded electronically shall have the deed tax data affixed electronically. The validity or effectiveness of a deed or instrument as between the parties, and as to any person who would otherwise be bound, is not affected by the failure to comply with this section. If a deed or instrument is accepted for recording contrary to this section, the failure to comply does not destroy or impair the record of the deed or instrument as notice.

**Subd. 2. Notice of certificate of value.** No deed or instrument providing for the transfer of title to real property that is subject to the tax as provided in section 287.21, and no executory contract for the sale of land, shall be recorded unless such deed or instrument is accompanied by a notice from the county auditor that a certificate of value was filed in the auditor's office as provided in section 272.115. Documents subject to this provision that are filed electronically must include the certificate of value number assigned by the electronic certificate of value system established by the Department of Revenue.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1977 c 423 art 4 s 11]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1977 c 423 art 4 s 11]

**History:** 1963 c 831 s 1; 1971 c 838 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1974 c 253 s 1,2; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1977 c 423 art 4 s 10; 1986 c 444; 1999 c 31 s 17; 2008 c 238 art 3 s 4

### **287.25 PAYMENT OF TAX.**

Except for documents filed electronically, the tax imposed by section 287.21 must be paid in the manner prescribed by section 287.08 relating to payment of mortgage registration tax, and the treasurer must endorse a receipt for the tax on the face of the document or instrument.

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 5; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1985 c 300 s 18; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 7; 2008 c 238 art 3 s 5; 2009 c 88 art 9 s 4

**287.26** [Repealed, 2009 c 88 art 9 s 17]

**287.27** Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 2009 c 88 art 9 s 17]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 2014 c 308 art 9 s 94]

### **287.28 REFUNDS OR REDEMPTION.**

(a) The county treasurer may redeem stamps issued under the authority of sections 287.20 to 287.31 that have been spoiled, destroyed, or rendered useless or unfit for the purpose intended or for which the owner may have no use or which through mistake may have been improperly or unnecessarily used. Redemption shall be made only upon written application of the taxpayer.

(b) The county treasurer may refund any deed tax overpayment if a written application by the taxpayer is submitted to the county treasurer within 3-1/2 years from the date of the overpayment. If the county has not issued a denial of the application, the taxpayer may bring an action in Tax Court in the county in which the tax was paid at any time after the expiration of six months from the time that the application was submitted. A denial of refund may be appealed within 60 days from the date of the denial by commencing an action in Tax Court in the county where the tax was paid. The action is commenced by serving a petition for relief on the county treasurer, and filing a copy with the court. The county attorney shall defend the action. The county treasurer shall notify the treasurer of each county that has, or would receive a portion of the tax as paid. Any refund of deed tax which the county treasurer determines should be made, and any court ordered refund of deed tax, shall be accomplished using the refund procedures in section 287.08.

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 8; 1969 c 97 s 3; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 9; 1997 c 84 art 1 s 3; 2000 c 260 s 48; 1Sp2001 c 5 art 7 s 31

### **287.29 PAYMENT OF RECEIPTS TO STATE GENERAL FUND; REPORTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Appointment and payment of tax proceeds.** (a) The proceeds of the taxes levied and collected under sections 287.21 to 287.385 must be apportioned, 97 percent to the general fund of the state, and three percent to the county revenue fund.

(b) On or before the 20th day of each month, the county treasurer shall determine and pay to the commissioner of revenue for deposit in the state treasury and credit to the general fund the state's portion of the receipts for deed tax from the preceding month subject to the electronic transfer requirements of

section 270C.42. The county treasurer shall provide any related reports requested by the commissioner of revenue.

(c) Counties must remit the state's portion of the June receipts collected through June 25 and the estimated state's portion of the receipts to be collected during the remainder of the month to the commissioner of revenue two business days before June 30 of each year. The remaining amount of the June receipts is due on August 20.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1981 c 164 s 12]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 13]

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 9; 1969 c 399 s 1; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1981 c 164 s 2; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 10; 1Sp1986 c 1 art 4 s 37; 1Sp1989 c 1 art 3 s 25; 1990 c 480 art 7 s 24; 1999 c 31 s 18; 2000 c 260 s 49; 1Sp2003 c 21 art 9 s 5; 2005 c 151 art 2 s 17; 2016 c 158 art 1 s 158

### **287.30 COUNTY TREASURER; DUTIES.**

The duties imposed upon county treasurers by this chapter are within the duties of such office and are within the coverage of any official bond delivered to the state, conditioned that any such officer shall faithfully execute the duties of office. The county board may by resolution require the county auditor to perform any duty imposed on the county treasurer under this chapter.

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 10; 1986 c 444; 1999 c 31 s 19; 2014 c 308 art 9 s 58

### **287.31 VIOLATIONS; CIVIL PENALTIES.**

Subdivision 1. **Failure to pay full amount.** Any person liable for the tax imposed by section 287.21 who fails to pay the full amount of deed tax imposed under this chapter, unless the failure is shown to be due to reasonable cause, is liable to a civil penalty of \$250, or 100 percent of the tax, for each such failure, whichever is less.

Subd. 2. **Willful evasion.** Any person who willfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat any such tax or the payment thereof, is, in addition to other penalties provided by law, liable to a penalty of 50 percent of the total amount of the underpayment of the tax.

Subd. 3. **Underpayments of accelerated payment of June tax receipts.** If a county fails to timely remit the state portion of the actual June tax receipts at the time required by section 287.12 or 287.29, the county shall pay a penalty equal to ten percent of the state portion of actual June receipts less the amount remitted to the commissioner of revenue in June. The penalty must not be imposed, however, if the amount remitted in June equals either:

- (1) 90 percent of the state's portion of the preceding May's receipts; or
- (2) 90 percent of the average monthly amount of the state's portion for the previous calendar year.

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 11; 1997 c 84 art 6 s 18; 1999 c 31 s 20; 1Sp2003 c 21 art 9 s 6

**287.32** [Repealed, 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 13]

**PENALTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS  
OF COMMON APPLICABILITY**

**287.325 VIOLATIONS; CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

Any person who in any manner intentionally attempts to evade a tax imposed by this chapter, or who intentionally aids or abets in the evasion or attempted evasion of such tax is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

**History:** 1999 c 31 s 21

**287.33 EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION.**

Expenses of administration of this chapter to be paid out of county funds include fees and expenses incurred by the county attorney in connection with this chapter and all other costs and expenses.

**History:** 1961 c 647 s 13; 1973 c 582 s 3; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 11 s 11; 1999 c 31 s 22

**287.34** [Repealed, 1999 c 31 s 26]

**287.35** [Repealed, 1999 c 31 s 26]

**287.36** [Repealed, 1999 c 31 s 26]

**287.37 COMMISSIONER'S POWERS; DATA CLASSIFICATION.**

The commissioner of revenue may investigate and examine persons and transactions that are subject to this chapter using the powers and authorities granted in chapters 270C and 289A. The audit, assessment, appeal, collection, enforcement, and administrative provisions of chapters 270C and 289A apply to the taxes imposed by this chapter. All tax amounts collected by the commissioner must be apportioned under section 287.12. The commissioner's expenses under this section are not expenses of administration under section 287.33. All data and information made available to the commissioner under this section is public except for investigative data covered by section 270B.03, subdivision 6.

**History:** 1996 c 471 art 3 s 32; 2005 c 151 art 2 s 7

**287.38 LIMITATIONS ON TIME FOR ASSESSMENT OF TAX.**

Subdivision 1. **General rule.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, the amount of taxes assessable under this chapter must be assessed within 3-1/2 years after the date the document is recorded.

Subd. 2. **Omission in excess of 25 percent.** Additional taxes may be assessed within 6-1/2 years after the document was recorded, if the taxpayer underpays the tax due on the filing of that document by more than 25 percent or the document was erroneously treated as exempt.

Subd. 3. **Fraud.** Notwithstanding the limitations under subdivision 1, additional taxes may be assessed at any time if a document is presented for recording with a fraudulent intent to underpay the taxes imposed by this chapter.

**History:** 1999 c 31 s 23

**287.385 INTEREST.**

Subdivision 1. **Interest rate.** If an interest assessment is required under this section, interest is computed at the rate specified in section 270C.40.



Subd. 2. **Late payment.** If a tax is not paid within the time specified by law for payment, the unpaid tax bears interest from the date the tax should have been paid until the date the tax is paid.

Subd. 3. **Extensions.** If an extension of time for payment has been granted, interest must be paid from the date the payment should have been made if no extension had been granted, until the date the tax is paid.

Subd. 4. **Additional assessments.** If a taxpayer is liable for additional taxes because of a redetermination by the commissioner of revenue, or for any other reason, the additional taxes bear interest from the time the tax should have been paid, without regard to any extension allowed, until the date the tax is paid.

Subd. 5. **Refunds.** (a) Interest must be paid at the rate specified in section 270C.40 on an overpayment that is refunded or credited to a taxpayer more than 30 days after a refund request is made. Interest does not apply to the 30-day period.

(b) In the case of an erroneous refund, interest accrues from the date the refund was paid unless the erroneous refund results from a mistake of the Department of Revenue or the county, then no interest or penalty is imposed unless the deficiency assessment is not satisfied within 60 days of the order.

Subd. 6. **Interest on judgments.** Notwithstanding section 549.09, if judgment is entered in favor of the commissioner of revenue or a county with regard to any tax under this chapter, the judgment bears interest at the rate specified in section 270C.40 from the date the judgment is entered until the date of payment.

Subd. 7. **Interest on penalties.** A penalty imposed under this chapter bears interest from the date provided in section 270C.40, subdivision 3, to the date of payment of the penalty.

**History:** 1999 c 31 s 24; 2005 c 151 art 2 s 17; 2013 c 143 art 18 s 4

**287.39** [Repealed, 2005 c 151 art 1 s 117]