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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 4194

03/12/2026 Authored by Hicks, Davids, Smith and Liebling
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Taxes

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to taxation; local sales taxes; amending the approved uses of local sales
1.3 tax funds collected by the city of Rochester; amending Laws 1998, chapter 389,
1.4 article 8, section 43, subdivisions 3a, as added, 4a, as added, 5, as amended.

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

1.6 Section 1. Laws 1998, chapter 389, article 8, section 43, subdivision 3a, as added by Laws
1.7 2023, chapter 64, article 10, section 7, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 3a. Use of sales and use tax revenues; additional projects. (a) The revenues
1.9 derived from the extension of the tax authorized under subdivision 1a must be used by the
1.10 city of Rochester to pay the costs of collecting and administering the tax and paying for the
1.11 following projects in the city, including securing and paying debt service on bonds issued
1.12 to finance all or part of the following projects, plus associated bonding costs:

1.13 (1) notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.99, subdivision 2, paragraph (d),
1.14 \$50,000,000 for an economic vitality fund and expenses eligible to be paid from the fund;

1.15 (2) notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.99, subdivision 2, paragraph (d),
1.16 \$50,000,000 for street reconstruction;

1.17 (3) notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.99, subdivision 2, paragraph (d),
1.18 \$40,000,000 for flood control and water quality, excluding removal of the MN00515 dam;
1.19 and

1.20 (4) \$65,000,000 for a sports and recreation complex.

1.21 (b) Notwithstanding voter approval, the city must not collect funds for the use designated
1.22 in paragraph (a), clause (4), after June 30, 2026. Any funds generated by the tax after voter

2.1 approval and through June 30, 2026, must be applied to the uses in paragraph (a), clauses
 2.2 (1) to (3).

2.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.4 Sec. 2. Laws 1998, chapter 389, article 8, section 43, subdivision 4a, as added by Laws
 2.5 2023, chapter 64, article 10, section 8, is amended to read:

2.6 Subd. 4a. **Bonding authority; additional projects and extension of tax.** (a) The city
 2.7 of Rochester may issue bonds under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 475, to finance all or a
 2.8 portion of the costs of the projects authorized in subdivision 3a and approved by the voters
 2.9 as required under Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.99, subdivision 3, paragraph (a). The
 2.10 aggregate principal amount of bonds issued under this subdivision may not exceed
 2.11 ~~\$205,000,000~~ \$140,000,000 for the projects described in subdivision 3a, clauses (1) to ~~(4)~~
 2.12 (3), plus an amount to be applied to the payment of the costs of issuing the bonds.

2.13 (b) The bonds may be paid from or secured by any funds available to the city of
 2.14 Rochester, including the tax authorized under subdivision 1a and the full faith and credit
 2.15 of the city. The issuance of bonds under this subdivision is not subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 2.16 sections 275.60 and 275.61.

2.17 (c) The bonds are not included in computing any debt limitation applicable to the city
 2.18 of Rochester, and any levy of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 475.61, to pay principal
 2.19 and interest on the bonds is not subject to any levy limitation. A separate election to approve
 2.20 the bonds under Minnesota Statutes, section 475.58, is not required.

2.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.22 Sec. 3. Laws 1998, chapter 389, article 8, section 43, subdivision 5, as amended by Laws
 2.23 2005, First Special Session chapter 3, article 5, section 30, Laws 2011, First Special Session
 2.24 chapter 7, article 4, section 7, Laws 2013, chapter 143, article 10, section 13, and Laws
 2.25 2023, chapter 64, article 10, section 9, is amended to read:

2.26 Subd. 5. **Termination of taxes.** (a) The taxes imposed under subdivisions 1 and 2 expire
 2.27 at the later of (1) December 31, 2009, or (2) when the city council determines that sufficient
 2.28 funds have been received from the taxes to finance the first \$71,500,000 of capital
 2.29 expenditures and bonds for the projects authorized in subdivision 3, including the amount
 2.30 to prepay or retire at maturity the principal, interest, and premium due on any bonds issued
 2.31 for the projects under subdivision 4, unless the taxes are extended as allowed in paragraph
 2.32 (b). Any funds remaining after completion of the project and retirement or redemption of

3.1 the bonds shall also be used to fund the projects under subdivision 3. The taxes imposed
3.2 under subdivisions 1 and 2 may expire at an earlier time if the city so determines by
3.3 ordinance.

3.4 (b) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 297A.99 and 477A.016, or any other
3.5 contrary provision of law, ordinance, or city charter, the city of Rochester may, by ordinance,
3.6 extend the taxes authorized in subdivisions 1 and 2 beyond December 31, 2009, if approved
3.7 by the voters of the city at a special election in 2005 or the general election in 2006. The
3.8 question put to the voters must indicate that an affirmative vote would allow up to an
3.9 additional \$40,000,000 of sales tax revenues be raised and up to \$40,000,000 of bonds to
3.10 be issued above the amount authorized in the June 23, 1998, referendum for the projects
3.11 specified in subdivision 3. If the taxes authorized in subdivisions 1 and 2 are extended under
3.12 this paragraph, the taxes expire when the city council determines that sufficient funds have
3.13 been received from the taxes to finance the projects and to prepay or retire at maturity the
3.14 principal, interest, and premium due on any bonds issued for the projects under subdivision
3.15 4. Any funds remaining after completion of the project and retirement or redemption of the
3.16 bonds may be placed in the general fund of the city.

3.17 (c) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 297A.99 and 477A.016, or any other
3.18 contrary provision of law, ordinance, or city charter, the city of Rochester may, by ordinance,
3.19 extend the taxes authorized in subdivisions 1, paragraph (a), and 2, up to December 31,
3.20 2049, provided that all additional revenues above those necessary to fund the projects and
3.21 associated financing costs listed in subdivision 3, paragraphs (a) to (e), are committed to
3.22 fund public infrastructure projects contained in the development plan adopted under
3.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 469.43, including all financing costs; otherwise the taxes
3.24 terminate when the city council determines that sufficient funds have been received from
3.25 the taxes to finance expenditures and bonds for the projects authorized in subdivision 3,
3.26 paragraphs (a) to (e), plus an amount equal to the costs of issuance of the bonds and including
3.27 the amount to prepay or retire at maturity the principal, interest, and premiums due on any
3.28 bonds issued for the projects under subdivision 4.

3.29 (d) The tax imposed under subdivision 1, paragraph (b), expires at the earlier of December
3.30 31, 2049, or when the city council determines that sufficient funds have been raised from
3.31 the tax plus all other city funding sources authorized in this article to meet the city obligation
3.32 for financing the public infrastructure projects contained in the development plan adopted
3.33 under Minnesota Statutes, section 469.43, including all financing costs.

3.34 (e) The tax imposed under subdivision 1a expires at the earlier of (1) 24 20 years after
3.35 first imposed, or (2) when the city council determines that the amount of revenues received

4.1 from the tax is sufficient to pay for the project costs authorized under subdivision 3a for
4.2 projects approved by the voters as required under Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.99,
4.3 subdivision 3, paragraph (a), plus an amount sufficient to pay the costs related to issuance
4.4 of the bonds under subdivision 4a, including interest on the bonds. Except as otherwise
4.5 provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.99, subdivision 3, paragraph (f), any funds
4.6 remaining after payment of the allowed costs due to the timing of the termination of the tax
4.7 under Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.99, subdivision 12, shall be placed in the general
4.8 fund of the city. The tax imposed under subdivision 1a may expire at an earlier time if the
4.9 city so determines by ordinance.

4.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.