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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 2985

02/01/2022 Authored by Hertaus, Davids, Dettmer, Petersburg, Lueck and others
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; property; phasing out the state general tax; appropriating
1.3 money for refunds; amending Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section
1.4 275.025, subdivision 1; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 273.42,
1.5 subdivision 3; 275.025, subdivisions 3, 4, 5, 6; 276.112; Minnesota Statutes 2021
1.6 Supplement, section 275.025, subdivisions 1, 2.

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

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 275.025, subdivision 1, is amended
1.9 to read:

1.10 Subdivision 1. Levy amount. The state general levy is levied against
1.11 commercial-industrial property and seasonal residential recreational property, as defined
1.12 in this section. The state general levy for commercial-industrial property is \$716,990,000
1.13 \$368,545,000 for taxes payable in 2023 and thereafter 2022. The state general levy for
1.14 commercial-industrial property is \$0 for taxes payable in 2023 and thereafter. The state
1.15 general levy for seasonal-recreational property is \$41,690,000 \$20,845,000 for taxes payable
1.16 in 2020 and thereafter 2022. The state general levy for seasonal-recreational property is \$0
1.17 for taxes payable in 2023 and thereafter. The tax under this section is not treated as a local
1.18 tax rate under section 469.177 and is not the levy of a governmental unit under chapters
1.19 276A and 473F.

1.20 The commissioner shall increase or decrease the preliminary or final rate for a year as
1.21 necessary to account for errors and tax base changes that affected a preliminary or final rate
1.22 for either of the two preceding years. Adjustments are allowed to the extent that the necessary
1.23 information is available to the commissioner at the time the rates for a year must be certified,
1.24 and for the following reasons:

2.1 (1) an erroneous report of taxable value by a local official;

2.2 (2) an erroneous calculation by the commissioner; and

2.3 (3) an increase or decrease in taxable value for commercial-industrial or seasonal
2.4 residential recreational property reported to the commissioner under section 270C.85,
2.5 subdivision 2, clause (4), for the same year.

2.6 The commissioner may, but need not, make adjustments if the total difference in the tax
2.7 levied for the year would be less than \$100,000.

2.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective beginning with taxes payable in 2022.

2.9 Sec. 2. **STATE GENERAL TAX REFUND 2022.**

2.10 Subdivision 1. **Refund.** The commissioner of revenue must recalculate the final state
2.11 general levy rates using the levy amounts in section 1 and recertify the amounts to each
2.12 county auditor for taxes payable in 2022. County auditors must recalculate and spread the
2.13 state general taxes payable in 2022. County auditors must refund taxpayers for any
2.14 overpayment of state general taxes payable in 2022 and certify the refund amounts to the
2.15 commissioner of revenue. The commissioner of revenue must pay each county the certified
2.16 amount for refunds for overpayments of state general tax payable in 2022.

2.17 Subd. 2. **Appropriation.** An amount sufficient to make the payments required by the
2.18 commissioner of revenue under subdivision 1 is appropriated from the general fund to the
2.19 commissioner of revenue.

2.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for taxes payable in 2022.

2.21 Sec. 3. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

2.22 The revisor of statutes shall correct any statutory cross-references in Minnesota Statutes
2.23 and Minnesota Rules in a manner consistent with this act.

2.24 Sec. 4. **REPEALER.**

2.25 (a) Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 273.42, subdivision 3; 275.025, subdivisions 3,
2.26 4, 5, and 6; and 276.112, are repealed.

2.27 (b) Minnesota Statutes 2021 Supplement, section 275.025, subdivisions 1 and 2, are
2.28 repealed.

2.29 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective beginning with taxes payable in 2023.

273.42 RATE OF TAX; ENTRY AND CERTIFICATION; CREDIT ON PAYMENT; PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.

Subd. 3. **State tax on transmission and distribution lines.** Notwithstanding section 273.425, the entire tax capacity of property taxed at the average local tax rate under subdivision 1 is subject to the state tax rate provided in section 275.025. Notwithstanding subdivisions 1 and 2, the entire proceeds of the state tax levy for each such property must be distributed to the state under the procedures provided in chapter 276. No portion of the proceeds from the state levy on such property is distributed within the county under subdivision 1 or 2.

275.025 STATE GENERAL TAX.

Subdivision 1. **Levy amount.** The state general levy is levied against commercial-industrial property and seasonal residential recreational property, as defined in this section. The state general levy for commercial-industrial property is \$716,990,000 for taxes payable in 2023 and thereafter. The state general levy for seasonal-recreational property is \$41,690,000 for taxes payable in 2020 and thereafter. The tax under this section is not treated as a local tax rate under section 469.177 and is not the levy of a governmental unit under chapters 276A and 473F.

The commissioner shall increase or decrease the preliminary or final rate for a year as necessary to account for errors and tax base changes that affected a preliminary or final rate for either of the two preceding years. Adjustments are allowed to the extent that the necessary information is available to the commissioner at the time the rates for a year must be certified, and for the following reasons:

- (1) an erroneous report of taxable value by a local official;
- (2) an erroneous calculation by the commissioner; and
- (3) an increase or decrease in taxable value for commercial-industrial or seasonal residential recreational property reported to the commissioner under section 270C.85, subdivision 2, clause (4), for the same year.

The commissioner may, but need not, make adjustments if the total difference in the tax levied for the year would be less than \$100,000.

Subd. 2. **Commercial-industrial tax capacity.** For the purposes of this section, "commercial-industrial tax capacity" means the tax capacity of all taxable property classified as class 3 or class 5(1) under section 273.13, excluding:

- (1) the tax capacity attributable to the first \$150,000 of market value of each parcel of commercial-industrial property as defined under section 273.13, subdivision 24, clauses (1) and (2);
- (2) electric generation attached machinery under class 3; and
- (3) property described in section 473.625.

County commercial-industrial tax capacity amounts are not adjusted for the captured net tax capacity of a tax increment financing district under section 469.177, subdivision 2, the net tax capacity of transmission lines deducted from a local government's total net tax capacity under section 273.425, or fiscal disparities contribution and distribution net tax capacities under chapter 276A or 473F. For purposes of this subdivision, the procedures for determining eligibility for tier 1 under section 273.13, subdivision 24, clauses (1) and (2), shall apply in determining the portion of a property eligible to be considered within the first \$150,000 of market value.

Subd. 3. **Seasonal residential recreational tax capacity.** For the purposes of this section, "seasonal residential recreational tax capacity" means the tax capacity of tier III of class 1c under section 273.13, subdivision 22, and all class 4c(1), 4c(3)(ii), and 4c(12) property under section 273.13, subdivision 25, except that the first \$76,000 of market value of each noncommercial class 4c(12) property has a tax capacity for this purpose equal to 40 percent of its tax capacity under section 273.13.

Subd. 4. **Apportionment and levy of state general tax.** The state general tax must be levied by applying a uniform rate to all commercial-industrial tax capacity and a uniform rate to all seasonal residential recreational tax capacity. On or before October 1 each year, the commissioner of revenue shall certify the preliminary state general levy rates to each county auditor that must be used to prepare the notices of proposed property taxes for taxes payable in the following year. By January 1 of each year, the commissioner shall certify the final state general levy rates to each county auditor that shall be used in spreading taxes.

Subd. 5. **Underserved municipalities distribution.** (a) Any municipality that:

(1) lies wholly or partially within the metropolitan area as defined under section 473.121, subdivision 2, but outside the transit taxing district as defined under section 473.446, subdivision 2; and

(2) has a net fiscal disparities contribution equal to or greater than eight percent of its total taxable net tax capacity,

is eligible for a distribution from the proceeds of the state general levy imposed on taxpayers within the municipality.

(b) The distribution is equal to (1) the municipality's net tax capacity tax rate, times (2) the municipality's net fiscal disparities contribution in excess of eight percent of its total taxable net tax capacity; provided, however, that the distribution may not exceed the tax under this section imposed on taxpayers within the municipality. The amount of the distribution to each municipality must be determined by the commissioner of revenue and certified to each affected municipality and county by September 1 of the year in which taxes are payable.

(c) The distribution under this subdivision must be paid to the qualifying municipality by the treasurer of the home county of the municipality by December 1 of the year the taxes are payable. The amounts distributed under this subdivision must be deducted from the settlement of the state general levy for the taxes payable year under section 276.112.

(d) For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the meanings given.

(1) "Municipality" means a home rule or statutory city, or a town, except that in the case of a city that lies only partially within the metropolitan area, municipality means the portion of the city lying within the metropolitan area.

(2) "Net fiscal disparities contribution" means a municipality's fiscal disparities contribution tax capacity minus its distribution net tax capacity.

(3) "Total taxable net tax capacity" means the total net tax capacity of all properties in the municipality under section 273.13 minus (i) the net fiscal disparities contribution, and (ii) the municipality's tax increment captured net tax capacity.

Subd. 6. **Natural gas pipeline.** (a) The county must abate the state general levy on personal property that is part of an intrastate natural gas transportation or distribution pipeline system if:

(1) construction of the pipeline system commenced after January 1, 2018; and

(2) the pipeline system provides service to an area:

(i) outside the seven-county metropolitan area, as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 4; and

(ii) in which more than half of the households or businesses lacked access to natural gas distribution systems as of January 1, 2018.

(b) In the first year that a taxpayer seeks an abatement under this subdivision, the taxpayer must file an application with the commissioner of revenue by March 1 of the assessment year on a form prescribed by the commissioner.

(c) The commissioner of revenue must notify any affected county in the first year that a pipeline system becomes eligible for an abatement under this subdivision.

(d) The abatement under this subdivision applies for a period not to exceed 12 taxable years, provided that once a property no longer qualifies, it may not subsequently qualify for an abatement under this subdivision.

276.112 STATE PROPERTY TAXES; COUNTY TREASURER.

On the estimated payment and settlement dates provided in this chapter for the settlement of taxes levied by school districts, the county treasurer must make full settlement with the county auditor for all receipts of state property taxes levied under section 275.025, and must transmit those receipts to the commissioner of revenue by electronic means on the dates and according to the provisions applicable to distributions to school districts.