

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Tax Data Classifications and Disclosure

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### Overview

This bill modifies tax data classifications in certain instances and permits disclosure of tax return information for purposes of debt collection by the Department of Revenue, and for enforcement of job opportunity, biotechnology and health science industry programs. The bill would also shift reporting requirements for those seeking to qualify for a class 1b homestead for blind and disabled persons. Rather than reporting to the commissioner of revenue, beginning with declarations for 2008, reports are to be made to the appropriate county assessor.

### Section

- 1** **"Tax laws" definition.** For purposes of tax data classification and disclosure, incorporates motor vehicle sales taxes (chapter 297B) into the definition of "Minnesota tax laws."
- 2** **Confidential and protected non-public data.** Clarifies that classification of certain information given to the Department of Revenue concerning tax-law compliance by an individual as confidential or protected non-public does not apply to laws relating to property taxes.
- 3** **Debt collection.** Permits the commissioner of revenue to use tax return information for the purpose of collecting any debts referred to the commissioner of revenue under the general state debt collection chapter, 16D. Chapter 16D allows state agencies to refer debts to the commissioner of revenue for collection purposes, and grants the commissioner of revenue certain powers to collect these debts.
- 4** **Disclosure for certain job opportunity, biotechnology, and health science industry**

**Section**

**programs.** Permits the commissioner of revenue to disclose return information for certain taxes to the Department of Employment and Economic Development and appropriate local government units, if a qualifying business is located there, as needed to enforce job opportunity building zone benefits and biotechnology and health science industry zone benefits.

- 5 Homesteads of blind and disabled persons.** Amends section 273.1315 to provide that, beginning in 2008, persons seeking to qualify for a class 1b homestead will be applying to the county assessor rather than the commissioner of revenue. Properties already receiving the class 1b benefits will continue to receive those benefits until the property no longer qualifies. Effective for taxes payable in 2008 and thereafter.

**Effective Date.** Each section of the bill is effective on the day following enactment.