

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Expand the existing sales tax exemption for public safety radio systems

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Overview

Currently, products and services purchased by 25 counties for use in the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) public safety radio system are exempt from sales tax. This bill would extend the exemption to all counties in the state and would apply to both ARMER systems and others public safety radio systems that are used for the same purpose. Although many counties use the ARMER system, some counties have developed alternative emergency public radio systems.

Section

1 Public safety radio communications systems. Provides a parallel exemption for ARMER and other emergency public safety radio systems to the one currently provided to the following counties for their ARMER system purchases:

- Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington, counties (the first and second phases of the ARMER system);
- Dodge, Freeborn, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha and Winona (part of the third phase of the ARMER system); and
- Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright, and Itasca Counties.

The exemption is effective retroactively to purchases made after April 30, 2005 and allows local governments to apply for a refund for any tax paid on these purchases between April 30, 2005 and July 1, 2013. Requires that all claims for refunds must be filed by July 1, 2014.