

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Exempts a nonprofit organization from city fees or charges, if the fees or charges are for a service provided by the city and within the most recent five years that service was paid for from the city's general revenues.

Effective August 1, 2013, and applies to fees and charges imposed on or after that date.

“Nonprofit organization” is defined as an organization that is exempt from property taxes and meets the criteria in Minn. Stat. § 272.02, subd. 7, which reads:

Subd. 7. Institutions of public charity. (a) Institutions of purely public charity that are exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are exempt if they meet the requirements of this subdivision. In determining whether real property is exempt under this subdivision, the following factors must be considered:

- (1) whether the stated purpose of the undertaking is to be helpful to others without immediate expectation of material reward;
- (2) whether the institution of public charity is supported by material donations, gifts, or government grants for services to the public in whole or in part;
- (3) whether a material number of the recipients of the charity receive benefits or services at reduced or no cost, or whether the organization provides services to the public that alleviate burdens or responsibilities that would otherwise be borne by the government;
- (4) whether the income received, including material gifts and donations, produces a profit to the charitable institution that is not distributed to private interests;

(5) whether the beneficiaries of the charity are restricted or unrestricted, and, if restricted, whether the class of persons to whom the charity is made available is one having a reasonable relationship to the charitable objectives; and

(6) whether dividends, in form or substance, or assets upon dissolution, are not available to private interests.

A charitable organization must satisfy the factors in clauses (1) to (6) for its property to be exempt under this subdivision, unless there is a reasonable justification for failing to meet the factors in clause (2), (3), or (5), and the organization provides to the assessor the factual basis for that justification. If there is reasonable justification for failing to meet the factors in clause (2), (3), or (5), an organization is a purely public charity under this subdivision without meeting those factors. After an exemption is properly granted under this subdivision, it will remain in effect unless there is a material change in facts.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, a grant is a written instrument or electronic document defining a legal relationship between a granting agency and a grantee when the principal purpose of the relationship is to transfer cash or something of value to the grantee to support a public purpose authorized by law in a general manner instead of acquiring by professional or technical contract, purchase, lease, or barter property or services for the direct benefit or use of the granting agency.

(c) In determining whether rental housing property qualifies for exemption under this subdivision, the following are not gifts or donations to the owner of the rental housing:

(1) rent assistance provided by the government to or on behalf of tenants; and

(2) financing assistance or tax credits provided by the government to the owner on condition that specific units or a specific quantity of units be set aside for persons or families with certain income characteristics.