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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 531

02/02/2015 Authored by Swedzinski, Rarick, Zerwas, Carlson, O'Driscoll and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy
02/12/2015 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Taxes

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to taxation; sales and use; modifying exemption provisions for
1.3 construction materials by certain contractors; adding a refund provision;
1.4 amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 297A.71, by adding a subdivision;
1.5 297A.75, subdivisions 1, 2, 3.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 297A.71, is amended by adding a
1.8 subdivision to read:

1.9 Subd. 49. Construction materials purchased by contractors; exemption for
1.10 certain entities. (a) Building, construction, or reconstruction materials, supplies, and
1.11 equipment purchased by a contractor, subcontractor, or builder and used or consumed
1.12 in or incorporated into buildings or facilities used principally by the following entities
1.13 are exempt:

1.14 (1) school districts, as defined under section 297A.70, subdivision 2, paragraph (c);

1.15 (2) local governments, as defined under section 297A.70, subdivision 2, paragraph
1.16 (d);

1.17 (3) hospitals and nursing homes owned and operated by political subdivisions of the
1.18 state, as defined under section 297A.70, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (3);

1.19 (4) public libraries; library systems; multicounty, multitype library systems, as
1.20 defined in section 134.001; and county law libraries under chapter 134A;

1.21 (5) nonprofit groups, as defined under section 297A.70, subdivision 4;

1.22 (6) hospitals, outpatient surgical centers, and critical access dental providers, as
1.23 defined under section 297A.70, subdivision 7; and

1.24 (7) nursing homes and boarding care homes, as defined under section 297A.70,
1.25 subdivision 18.

2.1 (b) Materials, supplies, and equipment used in the construction, reconstruction,
 2.2 repair, maintenance, or improvement of public infrastructure of any kind including, but
 2.3 not limited to, roads, bridges, culverts, drinking water facilities, and wastewater facilities
 2.4 purchased by a contractor or subcontractor of the following entities are exempt:

2.5 (1) school districts, as defined under section 297A.70, subdivision 2, paragraph (c); or

2.6 (2) local governments, as defined under section 297A.70, subdivision 2, paragraph
 2.7 (d).

2.8 (c) The tax on purchases exempt under this subdivision must be imposed and
 2.9 collected as if the rate under section 297A.62, subdivision 1, applied, and then refunded in
 2.10 the manner provided in section 297A.75.

2.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for sales and purchases made after
 2.12 June 30, 2015.

2.13 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 297A.75, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.14 Subdivision 1. **Tax collected.** The tax on the gross receipts from the sale of the
 2.15 following exempt items must be imposed and collected as if the sale were taxable and the
 2.16 rate under section 297A.62, subdivision 1, applied. The exempt items include:

2.17 (1) building materials for an agricultural processing facility exempt under section
 2.18 297A.71, subdivision 13;

2.19 (2) building materials for mineral production facilities exempt under section
 2.20 297A.71, subdivision 14;

2.21 (3) building materials for correctional facilities under section 297A.71, subdivision 3;

2.22 (4) building materials used in a residence for disabled veterans exempt under section
 2.23 297A.71, subdivision 11;

2.24 (5) elevators and building materials exempt under section 297A.71, subdivision 12;

2.25 (6) materials and supplies for qualified low-income housing under section 297A.71,
 2.26 subdivision 23;

2.27 (7) materials, supplies, and equipment for municipal electric utility facilities under
 2.28 section 297A.71, subdivision 35;

2.29 (8) equipment and materials used for the generation, transmission, and distribution
 2.30 of electrical energy and an aerial camera package exempt under section 297A.68,
 2.31 subdivision 37;

2.32 (9) commuter rail vehicle and repair parts under section 297A.70, subdivision 3,
 2.33 paragraph (a), clause (10);

2.34 (10) materials, supplies, and equipment for construction or improvement of projects
 2.35 and facilities under section 297A.71, subdivision 40;

3.1 (11) materials, supplies, and equipment for construction, improvement, or expansion
3.2 of:

3.3 (i) an aerospace defense manufacturing facility exempt under section 297A.71,
3.4 subdivision 42;

3.5 (ii) a biopharmaceutical manufacturing facility exempt under section 297A.71,
3.6 subdivision 45;

3.7 (iii) a research and development facility exempt under section 297A.71, subdivision
3.8 46; and

3.9 (iv) an industrial measurement manufacturing and controls facility exempt under
3.10 section 297A.71, subdivision 47;

3.11 (12) enterprise information technology equipment and computer software for use in
3.12 a qualified data center exempt under section 297A.68, subdivision 42;

3.13 (13) materials, supplies, and equipment for qualifying capital projects under section
3.14 297A.71, subdivision 44;

3.15 (14) items purchased for use in providing critical access dental services exempt
3.16 under section 297A.70, subdivision 7, paragraph (c); ~~and~~

3.17 (15) items and services purchased under a business subsidy agreement for use or
3.18 consumption primarily in greater Minnesota exempt under section 297A.68, subdivision
3.19 44; and

3.20 (16) building construction or reconstruction materials, supplies, and equipment
3.21 purchased by an entity eligible under section 297A.71, subdivision 49.

3.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for sales and purchases made after
3.23 June 30, 2015.

3.24 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 297A.75, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

3.25 Subd. 2. **Refund; eligible persons.** Upon application on forms prescribed by the
3.26 commissioner, a refund equal to the tax paid on the gross receipts of the exempt items
3.27 must be paid to the applicant. Only the following persons may apply for the refund:

3.28 (1) for subdivision 1, clauses (1), (2), and (14), the applicant must be the purchaser;

3.29 (2) for subdivision 1, clause (3), the applicant must be the governmental subdivision;

3.30 (3) for subdivision 1, clause (4), the applicant must be the recipient of the benefits
3.31 provided in United States Code, title 38, chapter 21;

3.32 (4) for subdivision 1, clause (5), the applicant must be the owner of the homestead
3.33 property;

3.34 (5) for subdivision 1, clause (6), the owner of the qualified low-income housing
3.35 project;

4.1 (6) for subdivision 1, clause (7), the applicant must be a municipal electric utility or
4.2 a joint venture of municipal electric utilities;

4.3 (7) for subdivision 1, clauses (8), (11), (12), and (15), the owner of the qualifying
4.4 business; ~~and~~

4.5 (8) for subdivision 1, clauses (9), (10), and (13), the applicant must be the
4.6 governmental entity that owns or contracts for the project or facility; and

4.7 (9) for subdivision 1, clause (16), the applicant must be the entity eligible under
4.8 section 297A.71, subdivision 49.

4.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for sales and purchases made after
4.10 June 30, 2015.

4.11 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 297A.75, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

4.12 Subd. 3. **Application.** (a) The application must include sufficient information
4.13 to permit the commissioner to verify the tax paid. If the tax was paid by a contractor,
4.14 subcontractor, or builder, under subdivision 1, clauses (3) to (13), ~~or (15), or (16),~~ the
4.15 contractor, subcontractor, or builder must furnish to the refund applicant a statement
4.16 including the cost of the exempt items and the taxes paid on the items unless otherwise
4.17 specifically provided by this subdivision. The provisions of sections 289A.40 and
4.18 289A.50 apply to refunds under this section.

4.19 (b) An applicant may not file more than two applications per calendar year for
4.20 refunds for taxes paid on capital equipment exempt under section 297A.68, subdivision 5.

4.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for sales and purchases made after
4.22 June 30, 2015.