

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Handout 7A

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

TO: Aitkin County Board
FROM: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator
RE: 2013 Legislative Recommendations
DATE: March 26, 2013

The following is a summary of the Aitkin County Board's position on specific legislation for 2013. The Aitkin County Board has reviewed several pieces of legislation for 2013 and has been asked by our legislators to keep them updated on our position. This will help them when considering how to vote. The County Board typically adopts a resolution which details their reasoning behind adopting the resolution. Copies of this year's resolutions are attached.

2013 Legislative Session Quick Reference Aitkin County

House File/ Senate File	Support/ Oppose	Summary
H.F. 413 S.F. 387	Support	<u>Resolution #022613-029</u> Providing for inflation adjustments to payment in lieu of taxes for certain natural resource lands.
H.F. 428 S.F. 472 and S.F. 63	Support	<u>Resolution #031213-033</u> Refund of sales tax related to ARMER 800 Mhz purchases.
H.F. 1072 S.F. 1036	Support	<u>Resolution #022613-030</u> MAGIC Act – Minnesota Accountable Government Innovation and Collaboration Act. <i>Not likely to move forward at this time.</i>
H.F. 1181 S.F. 1141	Oppose	Proposes modifying how Counties spend con con \$\$\$. <i>Aitkin proposes the ten counties discuss alternatives and report back</i>
H.F. 1286 S.F. 1152	Support	Local government alternative website publication authorization
H.F. S.F. 1430	Support	Local government public notice publishing alternatives to legal newspapers authorization
H.F. 1525 S.F. 1268	Support	<u>Resolution #031213-034</u> Repeal MN Statute 276A Fiscal Disparities.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED February 26, 2013

By Commissioner: Napstad

022613-029

PILT for Northern Minnesota Forested Counties

WHEREAS, the concept of the state making payments to local taxing districts to help defray costs for local government services provided in support of tax-exempt natural resource lands has been in existence since the 1940's, and

WHEREAS, results of a late 1970's study concluded that local government service costs were consistent regardless of ownership or higher because land is public, and

WHEREAS, also in the late 1970's, the federal government recognized its obligation to help defray costs that local government services provided in support of tax-exempt natural resource lands and established federal payments in lieu of taxes on certain federal natural resource lands, and

WHEREAS, following suit with these actions, the 1979 State Legislature approved what is known today as State Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) for tax-exempt natural resource lands, and

WHEREAS, that considerable deliberation continued over the years to improve PILT reimbursement resulted in an overhaul of the PILT laws in 2000 that is still in place today, and

WHEREAS, S.F. 387 and H.F. 413 proposes an inflation adjustment, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees with S.F. 387.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners support the current language of S.F. 387 and H.F. 413.

Commissioner Niemi moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

I, Kirk Peysar, Auditor, of the County of Aitkin, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 26th day of February A.D., 2013, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 26th day of February A.D., 2013

KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy

By Commissioner: Napstad

022613-030

Minnesota Accountable Government, Innovation and Collaboration (MAGIC) Act

WHEREAS, Minnesota is consistently placed at or near the bottom of national measures that assess the capacity for local government innovation in all 50 states, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota and its counties face significant demographic trends that will require innovative approaches to program delivery in order to adequately meet the growing and changing needs of citizens, and

WHEREAS, counties with innovative ideas should be provided the requisite opportunity and flexibility to successfully implement those ideas so as to best serve their communities, and

WHEREAS, counties across Minnesota boast significant geographic, demographic and economic diversity that thus requires maximum flexibility in programmatic implementation, and

WHEREAS, counties are willing and able to identify, implement and methodically verify increased programmatic efficiencies through a process that will cultivate and sustain a strong and trusting state-local partnership, and

WHEREAS, transitioning to an outcomes-based system of program evaluation is in the best interest of every Minnesota citizen and government that desires to maximize public resources and enhance the quality of life in their community to the fullest extent possible.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that Aitkin County recommends that the Legislature and governor work cooperatively with all 87 counties to swiftly pass the MAGIC Act into law during the 2013 legislative session, thus implementing a system that will enhance and incent local government efficiency and innovation throughout Minnesota by:

1. Allowing counties to take any action not prohibited by state law to provide for the health, safety and general welfare of the public; and
2. Creating a measured, outcomes-based waiver process whereby counties, in partnership with the legislative and executive branch of state government, can implement efficiency-based, time-limited pilot programs that are subject to final review by the Legislature and governor and will create a repository of best practices so as to improve long-term policy decisions across the state.

Commissioner Westerlund moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 26th day of February A.D. 2013

KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED March 12, 2013

By Commissioner: Napstad

031213-033

Support for Refund of Sales Tax Related to ARMER 800 Mhz Purchases

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Board has authorized purchases of approximately \$2,000,000.00 to upgrade the County radio and dispatch equipment to be compatible with the 800 Mhz ARMER system, and

WHEREAS, when the seven county metro area made their upgrades they were exempt from paying sales tax, and

WHEREAS, if Aitkin County would have had the same benefit it would have saved more than \$100,000.00. Additionally the majority of greater MN counties would have had similar savings, had they been treated the same as the metro counties, and

WHEREAS, current legislation in the Senate (S.F. 472 and S.F. 63) supports refunding the sales tax for the mandated ARMER upgrades.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners supports S.F. 472 and S.F. 63 and future similar legislation in the MN House for a sales tax exemption for purchases made after June 30, 2005 for ARMER related equipment.

Commissioner Niemi moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 12th day of March A.D., 2013

KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED March 12, 2013

By Commissioner: Westerlund

031213-034

Repeal MN Statute 276A

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature enacted MN Statute 276A in 1996 without public hearings in the affected Counties that calls for the sharing of local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the perceived intended purpose/benefits of the statute was that:

- a. Communities with low tax base must impose higher tax rates to deliver the same service as communities with higher tax bases. These high tax rates make poor communities less attractive places for businesses to locate or expand in, exacerbating the problem. Requiring part of the commercial industrial tax base to be shared can reduce this effort.
- b. Communities generally believe that commercial and industrial properties pay more taxes than it costs to provide services to them. This encourages communities to compete for these properties by providing tax concessions of special services. Tax base sharing can reduce the incentive for this competition.
- c. Tax base sharing spreads the fiscal benefit of business development attracted by regional facilities such as large shopping centers, airports, and freeway interchanges, or recreational facilities such as sports stadiums and arenas.

WHEREAS, the benefits did not occur, and

WHEREAS, from the years 2010 through 2013, the total net loss in local tax revenue for some of the cities and townships of Aitkin County is \$930,000 due to Fiscal Disparities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board supports and recommends to the State of Minnesota legislature the repeal of MN Statutes 276A.

Commissioner Marcotte moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor.)

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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 12th day of March A.D., 2013

KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy



County Shoreland Rule Implementation
Responses collected March 2013

County	Year county adopted first shoreland ordinance	Number of times county has revised the ordinance since it was first adopted	Year of the latest revision to the ordinance	Approximate amount county receives from the Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) for shoreland rule implementation	Estimated cost to county to administer, enforce, and implement current shoreland rules
Aitkin	1970	8	2012	\$10,786	\$260,000
Anoka	1980	4	1992	\$2,600	\$6,315
Becker	1971	10 or more	2012	\$12,000	\$200,000+
Beltrami	1971	4	2006	\$6,264	\$150,000 to \$170,000
Benton	1972	10 or more	2009	\$3,300	\$15,500
Big Stone	1993	2	2004	\$2,690	\$35,000
Blue Earth	1991	1	2000	\$3,243	\$25,000
Brown	1992	1	2012	\$2,675	Varies
Carlton	1972	4	2005	\$3,927	\$20,000
Carver	1972	10 or more	2011	\$2,615	\$20,000
Cass	1970	10 or more	2013	\$10,699	\$125,000
Chippewa		0		\$2,000	\$2,000
Chisago	1971	2	1993	\$4,943	\$106,000
Clay	1980	2	2005	\$3,000	\$5,000
Clearwater	1972	2	2006	\$3,600	\$60,000
Cook	1973	4	2003	\$4,200	\$185,000
Cottonwood	1972	3	2010	\$2,725	\$6,000
Crow Wing	1970	10 or more	2011	\$21,000	\$400,000
Dakota	N/A - all cities and townships in Dakota County are responsible for shoreland enforcement				
Dodge	1971	2	1995	\$2,675	\$9,000- \$10,000
Douglas	1966	7	2012	\$8,544	\$120,000
Faribault	1970s	1	1994	\$2,735	\$6,500
Fillmore	1993	1	2000	\$2,647	\$10,000
Freeborn	1982	3	1995	\$3,086	\$6,172
Goodhue	1972	4	2009	\$2,725	\$20,000
Grant	1972	8	2008	\$4,500	\$65,000
Hennepin	N/A - all cities in Hennepin County are required to have shoreland ordinances and are responsible for their enforcement.				

Houston	1982	2	1993	\$2,725	\$15,000
Hubbard	1971	10 or more	2011	\$8,434	\$300,000+
Isanti	1970's	2	2011	\$4,004	\$14,500
Itasca	1972	8	2010	\$20,000	\$40,000
Jackson	1969	7	2012	\$2,960	\$6,000-\$10,000
Kanabec	1970's	10 or more	2011	\$4,300	\$20,000
Kandiyohi	1989	10 or more	2012	\$7,000	\$25,000
Kittson	2003	0		\$2647	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Koochiching	1992	0	1992	\$2,722	\$9,000
Lac qui Parle	1994	0		\$2,995	\$7,000
Lake	1973	8	2006	\$5,500	Varies
Lake of the Woods	1970's	10 or more	2011	\$3,492	\$3,492 - \$20,000
Le Sueur	1971	3	2013	\$4,815	\$35,000+/-
Lincoln	1978	10 or more	2007	\$3,153	\$20,000
Lyon		3	2011	\$2,758	\$22,599
Mahnomen	1972	6	2011	\$13,235	\$23,495
Marshall	1995	0		\$2,615	\$24,000
Martin	1972	4	2007	\$2,523	Varies
McLeod	1978	5	2011	\$2,988	\$2,988 - \$20,000
Meeker	1983	7	2011		
Mille Lacs	1990	3	2010	\$4,808	\$60,000
Morrison	1970	2	2008	\$3,945	\$22,550
Mower	unknown	0	2002	\$3,250	\$10,000
Murray	1972	10 or more	2012	\$3,221	\$15,000
Nicollet	1974	4	2005	\$2,600	\$2,600
Noble	1989	1	2006	\$2,661	\$7,500
Norman	1971	2	2000	\$2,624	\$8,000
Olmsted	1986	1	1992	\$3,149	\$6,000 - \$11,000
Otter Tail	1971	10 or more	2011	\$17,747	\$900,000
Pennington	1973	2	1996	\$2,833	\$5,666
Pine	1993	1	2007	\$45,000	\$90,000
Pipestone	1972	1	1978	\$2,615	\$5,230
Polk	1971	4	2012	\$3,457	\$65,000
Pope					
Ramsey					

N/A -- all cities in Ramsey County are responsible for shoreland enforcement

Red Lake	1972	2	2010	\$2,873	\$10,000
Redwood	1994	0	1994	\$2,000	\$2,000
Renville	1989	0	1989	\$2,662	\$4,000 - \$5,000
Rice	1970's	10 or more	2012	\$4,778	\$64,000
Rock	1982	2	2001	\$2,615	\$5,000
Roseau	1980	3	2004	\$2,700	\$17,500
Scott					
Sherburne	1971	6	2000	\$4,872	\$50,000
Sibley					
St Louis	1972	10 or more	2011	\$19,936	\$85,000
Stearns	1972	10 or more	2012	\$9,000	\$275,000
Steele	1972	2	1993	\$2,867	\$6,000
Stevens	1972	2	2012	\$2,728	\$7,500
Swift	1983	2	2009	\$2,744	\$7,500
Todd	1972		2011	\$18,000	\$35,000
Traverse	2001	0	2001	\$2,804	\$8,000
Wabasha	1974	5	1992	\$3,500	\$20,000
Wadena	1971		2003	\$3,084	Varies
Waseca	1973	5	2009	\$3,006	\$10,000 - \$12,000
Washington	1992	1	1998	\$2,615	~\$20,000
Watonwan	1982	0		\$2,733	\$4,000
Wilkin	1995	0	1995	\$2,400	\$4,800
Winona	1970	8	2011	\$2,652	\$25,000
Wright	1973	3	1991	\$9,400	\$300,000
Yellow Medicine	1979	2	1998	\$2,629	\$11,000

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
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Fax: 218-927-7374

March 15, 2013

Representative Joe Radinovich
529 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd,
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

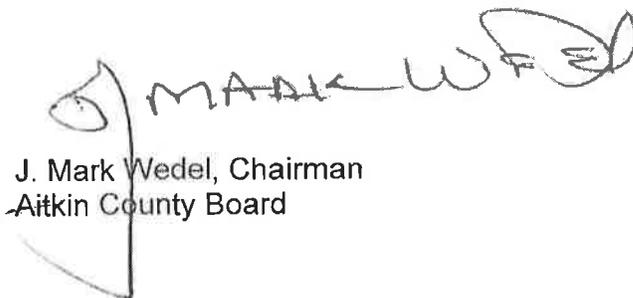
Dear Representative Radinovich:

Thank you for calling into the County Board meeting on Tuesday, March 12 to present your legislative update. We know your time is limited and we appreciate you sharing your time with the County Board.

I have attached the County Board Resolution 031312-034 requesting the Repeal of MN Statute 276A. Per our discussion on March 12th this is clearly an important issue for Aitkin County and our tax payers. When this issue came up on the agenda more than a dozen property tax payers attended the meeting to show their support of the County Board to adopt the resolution as attached. Several residents spoke on the issue and discussed their concerns that all of their taxes are making it difficult to operate a business in northern Minnesota, and when specific taxes target businesses in Aitkin to support a business/community three hours or more away, something is wrong.

The Board appreciates your review of our issues. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



J. Mark Wedel, Chairman
Aitkin County Board

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ADOPTED March 12, 2013

By Commissioner: Westerlund

031213-034

Repeal MN Statute 276A

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature enacted MN Statute 276A in 1996 without public hearings in the affected Counties that calls for the sharing of local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the perceived intended purpose/benefits of the statute was that:

- a. Communities with low tax base must impose higher tax rates to deliver the same service as communities with higher tax bases. These high tax rates make poor communities less attractive places for businesses to locate or expand in, exacerbating the problem. Requiring part of the commercial industrial tax base to be shared can reduce this effort.
- b. Communities generally believe that commercial and industrial properties pay more taxes than it costs to provide services to them. This encourages communities to compete for these properties by providing tax concessions of special services. Tax base sharing can reduce the incentive for this competition.
- c. Tax base sharing spreads the fiscal benefit of business development attracted by regional facilities such as large shopping centers, airports, and freeway interchanges, or recreational facilities such as sports stadiums and arenas.

WHEREAS, the benefits did not occur, and

WHEREAS, from the years 2010 through 2013, the total net loss in local tax revenue for some of the cities and townships of Aitkin County is \$930,000 due to Fiscal Disparities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board supports and recommends to the State of Minnesota legislature the repeal of MN Statutes 276A.

Commissioner Marcotte moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

I, Kirk Peysar, Auditor, of the County of Aitkin, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 12th day of March A.D., 2013, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 12th day of March A.D., 2013


KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor
BY _____, Deputy

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

March 15, 2013

Senator Carrie Ruud
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206

Dear Senator Ruud:

Thank you for calling into the County Board meeting on Tuesday, March 12 to present your legislative update. We know your time is limited and we appreciate you sharing your time with the County Board.

I have attached the County Board Resolution 031312-034 requesting the Repeal of MN Statute 276A. Per our discussion on March 12th this is clearly an important issue for Aitkin County and our tax payers. When this issue came up on the agenda more than a dozen property tax payers attended the meeting to show their support of the County Board to adopt the resolution as attached. Several residents spoke on the issue and discussed their concerns that all of their taxes are making it difficult to operate a business in northern Minnesota, and when specific taxes target businesses in Aitkin to support a business/community three hours or more away, something is wrong.

The Board appreciates your review of our issues. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



J. Mark Wedel, Chairman
Aitkin County Board

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED March 12, 2013

By Commissioner: Westerlund

031213-034

Repeal MN Statute 276A

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature enacted MN Statute 276A in 1996 without public hearings in the affected Counties that calls for the sharing of local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the perceived intended purpose/benefits of the statute was that:

- a. Communities with low tax base must impose higher tax rates to deliver the same service as communities with higher tax bases. These high tax rates make poor communities less attractive places for businesses to locate or expand in, exacerbating the problem. Requiring part of the commercial industrial tax base to be shared can reduce this effort.
- b. Communities generally believe that commercial and industrial properties pay more taxes than it costs to provide services to them. This encourages communities to compete for these properties by providing tax concessions of special services. Tax base sharing can reduce the incentive for this competition.
- c. Tax base sharing spreads the fiscal benefit of business development attracted by regional facilities such as large shopping centers, airports, and freeway interchanges, or recreational facilities such as sports stadiums and arenas.

WHEREAS, the benefits did not occur, and

WHEREAS, from the years 2010 through 2013, the total net loss in local tax revenue for some of the cities and townships of Aitkin County is \$930,000 due to Fiscal Disparities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board supports and recommends to the State of Minnesota legislature the repeal of MN Statutes 276A.

Commissioner Marcotte moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

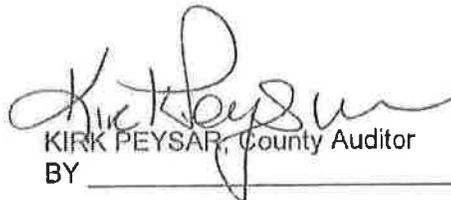
FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting Yes

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
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WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 12th day of March A.D., 2013


KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

March 14, 2013

Senator Lyle Koenen
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol, Room 124
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Koenen:

Let me introduce myself as the Chairman of the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners. Recently our County Board reviewed legislation you proposed, S.F. 472 and related S.F. 63. Aitkin County has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars upgrading our dispatch and radio system to be compliant with the 800 MHz requirements. This is clearly another mandate that has been passed down to local governments without adequate state or federal funding. But again the County complied. Your legislation seeking reimbursement for sales tax on these purchases is appropriate.

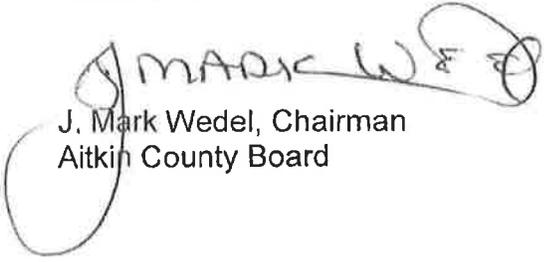
We are aware that previously, other counties had legislation excluding them from paying sales tax for these same purchases. It is not appropriate to treat MN taxpayers differently for the same purchase.

We estimate that Aitkin County tax payers would save around \$100,000.00 if our 800 MHz purchases had not been taxed. Again the issue is fairness.

If you need additional support please let us know (speakers at legislative hearing, etc.). This is an important topic for Aitkin County and the other Greater Minnesota Counties.

If after reviewing our resolution you have any comments please feel free to contact any or each of our County Commissioners as I am including our contact information.

Thank you,



J. Mark Wedel, Chairman
Aitkin County Board

District 1: J. Mark Wedel – Chair
515 6th Ave SE
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 218-927-6500
mark.wedel@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

District 2: Laurie Westerlund
30517 270th Lane
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 320-684-2652
laurie.westerlund@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2013-2016

District 3: Donald Niemi
32340 State Hwy 47
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 218-927-9947
don.niemi@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

District 4: Brian Napstad
51227 Long Point Place
McGregor, MN 55760
Home: 218-426-3008
brian.napstad@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2013-2016

District 5: Anne M. Marcotte–Vice Chair
P.O. Box 192
Hill City, MN 55748
Home: 218-256-0277
anne.marcotte@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator
217 2nd Street NW
Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
patrick.wussow@co.aitkin.mn.us
218-927-7276

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED March 12, 2013

By Commissioner: Napstad

031213-033

Support for Refund of Sales Tax Related to ARMER 800 Mhz Purchases

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Board has authorized purchases of approximately \$2,000,000.00 to upgrade the County radio and dispatch equipment to be compatible with the 800 Mhz ARMER system, and

WHEREAS, when the seven county metro area made their upgrades they were exempt from paying sales tax, and

WHEREAS, if Aitkin County would have had the same benefit it would have saved more than \$100,000.00. Additionally the majority of greater MN counties would have had similar savings, had they been treated the same as the metro counties, and

WHEREAS, current legislation in the Senate (S.F. 472 and S.F. 63) supports refunding the sales tax for the mandated ARMER upgrades.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners supports S.F. 472 and S.F. 63 and future similar legislation in the MN House for a sales tax exemption for purchases made after June 30, 2005 for ARMER related equipment.

Commissioner Niemel moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

I, Kirk Peysar, Auditor, of the County of Aitkin, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 12th day of March A.D., 2013, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 12th day of March A.D., 2013


KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy

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March 12, 2013

Senator Carrie Ruud
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206

RE: S.F. 472 and S.F. 63 – sales tax refund for unfunded mandates

Dear Senator Ruud:

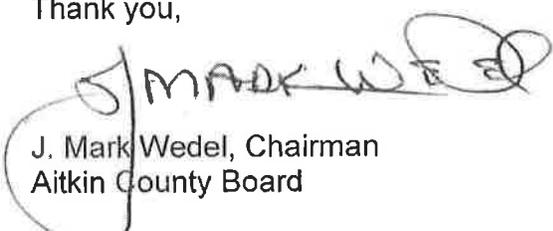
At the March 12th County Board meeting the County Board approved the attached resolution. We ask that you support these pieces of legislation as they correct an unfair treatment of Aitkin County and the majority of Greater MN counties that have had to pay sales taxes for the ARMER radio upgrades. In the previous decade the seven County metro area made their upgrades with legislation excluding them from paying the related sales tax.

We have included the supporting documents for your review.

By supporting this legislation you would be allowing Aitkin County residents to be treated the same as the residents in the seven county metro area.

The Board asks that you vote to approve each of the pieces of legislation listed above.

Thank you,



J. Mark Wedel, Chairman
Aitkin County Board

District 1: J. Mark Wedel – Chair
515 6th Ave SE
Aitkin, MN 56431
Home: 218-927-6500
mark.wedel@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

District 2: Laurie Westerlund
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Home: 320-684-2652
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Term: 2013-2016

District 3: Donald Niemi
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Term: 2011-2014

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brian.napstad@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2013-2016

District 5: Anne M. Marcotte–Vice Chair
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Term: 2011-2014

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator
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CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ADOPTED March 12, 2013

By Commissioner: Napstad

031213-033

Support for Refund of Sales Tax Related to ARMER 800 Mhz Purchases

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Board has authorized purchases of approximately \$2,000,000.00 to upgrade the County radio and dispatch equipment to be compatible with the 800 Mhz ARMER system, and

WHEREAS, when the seven county metro area made their upgrades they were exempt from paying sales tax, and

WHEREAS, if Aitkin County would have had the same benefit it would have saved more than \$100,000.00. Additionally the majority of greater MN counties would have had similar savings, had they been treated the same as the metro counties, and

WHEREAS, current legislation in the Senate (S.F. 472 and S.F. 63) supports refunding the sales tax for the mandated ARMER upgrades.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners supports S.F. 472 and S.F. 63 and future similar legislation in the MN House for a sales tax exemption for purchases made after June 30, 2005 for ARMER related equipment.

Commissioner Niemi moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

I, Kirk Peysar, Auditor, of the County of Aitkin, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 12th day of March A.D., 2013, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 12th day of March A.D., 2013


KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy

Minnesota State Legislature

Minnesota Senate

SF 472 Status in the **Senate** for the 88th Legislature (2013 - 2014)

Current bill text: [As Introduced](#)
[Version List](#)

Companion: [HF428](#);
Companion Text
[House Search](#)

Revisor number: 13-1358

[Long Description](#)

[Committee Hearings and Actions](#)

[Senate Counsel & Research Summary](#)

Description

Public safety radio communication systems sales tax exemption expansion

Authors

[Koenen](#); [Dahms](#); [Sheran](#); [Reinert](#); [Rosen](#)

Actions

[Separated](#) | [Chronological](#)

Senate

02/14/2013 Introduction and first reading

[Intro](#) pg. 234

02/14/2013 Referred to [Taxes](#)

**Senate Counsel, Research
and Fiscal Analysis**

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Tom Boltern
Director

Senate

State of Minnesota

S.F. No. 472 - Sales Tax Exemption for Public Safety Radio Systems

Author: Senator Lyle Koenen

Prepared By: Nora B. Pollock, Senate Counsel (651/297-8066)

Date: February 18, 2013

This bill provides a sales tax exemption for products and services for end-user equipment used for the construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the backbone of the Allied Radio Metric for Emergency Response (ARMER) public safety radio system, including public safety radio dispatch centers. The ARMER system is a shared network of radio towers, equipment shelters, and radio transmission equipment used by state agencies, local governments, and other emergency responders. This bill would also exempt sales and purchases of public safety systems other than ARMER. Local jurisdictions have received sales tax exemptions as they built their systems to join the backbone network, but a statewide exemption has never been authorized.

Effective retroactively for sales and purchases made after June 30, 2005. Purchasers may apply for a refund of sales tax already paid on eligible purchases through June 30, 2014.

NBP:dv

[Check on the status of this bill](#)

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Minnesota Senate

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KEY: ~~stricken~~ = removed, old language. underscoring = added, new language.

[Authors and Status](#)

[List versions](#)



S.F. No. 472, as introduced - 88th Legislative Session (2013-2014) Posted on Feb 13, 2013

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to taxation; sales and use; expanding exemption for public safety radio
- 1.3 communication systems; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.70,
- 1.4 subdivision 8.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.70, subdivision 8, is amended to read:
- 1.7 Subd. 8. **Regionwide Public safety radio communication system systems;**
- 1.8 **products and services. (a) Products and services including, but not limited to, end user**
- 1.9 **equipment used for construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, and enhancement**
- 1.10 **of the backbone system of the regionwide public safety radio communication system**
- 1.11 **established under sections 403.21 to 403.40, are exempt. For purposes of this subdivision,**
- 1.12 **backbone system is defined in section 403.21, subdivision 9. This subdivision is effective**
- 1.13 **for purchases, sales, storage, use, or consumption for use in the first and second phases of**
- 1.14 **the system, as defined in section 403.21, subdivisions 3, 10, and 11, that portion of the**
- 1.15 **third phase of the system that is located in the southeast district of the State Patrol and**
- 1.16 **the counties of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright, and that portion of the system**
- 1.17 **that is located in Itasca County.**
- 1.18 (b) Products and services, including, but not limited to, end-user equipment used
- 1.19 for construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, and enhancement of public safety
- 1.20 radio communication systems not already exempt under paragraph (a), including public
- 1.21 safety radio dispatch centers, are exempt.
- 1.22 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective retroactively for sales and purchases
- 1.23 made after April 30, 2005. Purchasers may apply for a refund of tax paid for qualifying
- 1.24 purchases under this subdivision made after April 30, 2005, and before July 1, 2013, in the
- 2.1 manner provided in section 297A.75. Notwithstanding limitations on claims for refunds
- 2.2 under section 289A.40, claims may be filed with the commissioner until June 30, 2014.

Please direct all comments concerning issues or legislation
to your [House Member](#) or [State Senator](#).

For Legislative Staff or for directions to the Capitol, visit the [Contact Us](#) page.

[General questions or comments.](#)

last updated: 04/18/2012

Minnesota State Legislature

Minnesota Senate

SF 63 Status in the **Senate** for the 88th Legislature (2013 - 2014)

Current bill text: As Introduced
[Version List](#)

Companion: [HF118](#);
[Companion Text](#)
[House Search](#)

Revisor number: 13-0633

Long Description	Committee Hearings and Actions	Senate Counsel & Research Summary
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Description

Public safety radio equipment sales tax exemption expansion

Authors

[Westrom](#); [Eken](#); [Koenen](#); [Ingebrietsen](#); [Dahms](#)

Actions

[Separated](#) | [Chronological](#)

Senate

01/22/2013 Introduction and first reading

[Intro](#) [pg. 77](#)

01/22/2013 Referred to [Taxes](#)

01/28/2013 Author added Dahms

[pg. 107](#)



Minnesota Senate

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[Authors and Status](#)

[List versions](#)



S.F. No. 63, as introduced - 88th Legislative Session (2013-2014) Posted on Jan 17, 2013

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to taxation; sales and use; expanding the exemption for public safety
- 1.3 radio communication systems;amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section
- 1.4 297A.70, subdivision 8.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.70, subdivision 8, is amended to read:
- 1.7 Subd. 8. **Regionwide public safety radio communication system; products and**
- 1.8 **services.** Products and services including, but not limited to, end user equipment used for
- 1.9 construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the backbone system
- 1.10 of the regionwide public safety radio communication system established under sections
- 1.11 403.21 to 403.40, are exempt. For purposes of this subdivision, backbone system is defined
- 1.12 in section 403.21, subdivision 9. ~~This subdivision is effective for purchases, sales, storage,~~
- 1.13 ~~use, or consumption for use in the first and second phases of the system, as defined in~~
- 1.14 ~~section 403.21, subdivisions 3, 10, and 11, that portion of the third phase of the system that~~
- 1.15 ~~is located in the southeast district of the State Patrol and the counties of Benton, Sherburne,~~
- 1.16 ~~Stearns, and Wright, and that portion of the system that is located in Itasca County.~~
- 1.17 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for sales and purchases made after
- 1.18 June 30, 2013.

Please direct all comments concerning issues or legislation to your [House Member](#) or [State Senator](#).

For Legislative Staff or for directions to the Capitol, visit the [Contact Us](#) page.

[General questions or comments.](#)

last updated: 04/16/2012

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

March 14, 2013

Representative Joe Radinovich
529 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: S.F. 472 and S.F. 63 – sales tax refund for unfunded mandates

Dear Representative Radinovich:

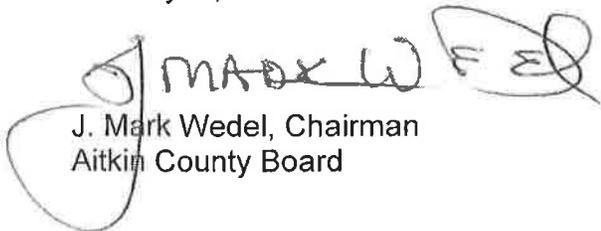
At the March 12th County Board meeting the County Board approved the attached resolution 031213-033. The County Board asks that you consider similar legislation in the MN House to effectuate appropriate action on behalf of the residents of Aitkin County. We ask that you support these pieces of legislation as they correct an unfair treatment of Aitkin County and the majority of Greater MN counties that have had to pay sales taxes for the ARMER radio upgrades. In the previous decade the seven County metro area made their upgrades with legislation excluding them from paying the related sales tax.

We have included the supporting documents for your review.

By supporting this legislation you would be allowing Aitkin County residents to be treated the same as the residents in the seven county metro area.

The Board asks that you vote to approve each of the pieces of legislation listed above.

Thank you,


J. Mark Wedel, Chairman
Aitkin County Board

District 1: J. Mark Wedel – Chair
515 6th Ave SE
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mark.wedel@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2011-2014

District 2: Laurie Westerlund
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Term: 2013-2016

District 3: Donald Niemi
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Home: 218-927-9947
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Term: 2011-2014

District 4: Brian Napstad
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brian.napstad@co.aitkin.mn.us
Term: 2013-2016

District 5: Anne M. Marcotte–Vice Chair
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Term: 2011-2014

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator
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Aitkin, MN 56431
patrick.wussow@co.aitkin.mn.us
218-927-7276

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED March 12, 2013

By Commissioner: Napstad

031213-033

Support for Refund of Sales Tax Related to ARMER 800 Mhz Purchases

WHEREAS, the Aitkin County Board has authorized purchases of approximately \$2,000,000.00 to upgrade the County radio and dispatch equipment to be compatible with the 800 Mhz ARMER system, and

WHEREAS, when the seven county metro area made their upgrades they were exempt from paying sales tax, and

WHEREAS, if Aitkin County would have had the same benefit it would have saved more than \$100,000.00. Additionally the majority of greater MN counties would have had similar savings, had they been treated the same as the metro counties, and

WHEREAS, current legislation in the Senate (S.F. 472 and S.F. 63) supports refunding the sales tax for the mandated ARMER upgrades.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners supports S.F. 472 and S.F. 63 and future similar legislation in the MN House for a sales tax exemption for purchases made after June 30, 2005 for ARMER related equipment.

Commissioner Nieml moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Aitkin) ss.
Office of County Auditor,)

I, Kirk Peysar, Auditor, of the County of Aitkin, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 12th day of March A.D., 2013, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Aitkin, Minnesota, this 12th day of March A.D., 2013


KIRK PEYSAR, County Auditor

BY _____, Deputy

Minnesota State Legislature

Minnesota Senate

SF 472 Status in the **Senate** for the 88th Legislature (2013 - 2014)

Current bill text: [As Introduced](#)
[Version List](#)

Companion: [HF428](#);
 Companion Text
[House Search](#)

Revisor number: 13-1358

Long Description	Committee Hearings and Actions	Senate Counsel & Research Summary
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Description

Public safety radio communication systems sales tax exemption expansion

Authors

[Koenen](#); [Dahms](#); [Sheran](#); [Reinert](#); [Rosen](#)

Actions

Separated	Chronological
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Senate

02/14/2013 Introduction and first reading

[Intro](#) pg. [234](#)

02/14/2013 Referred to [Taxes](#)

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Director

Senate

State of Minnesota

S.F. No. 472 - Sales Tax Exemption for Public Safety Radio Systems

Author: Senator Lyle Koenen

Prepared By: Nora B. Pollock, Senate Counsel (651/297-8066)

Date: February 18, 2013

This bill provides a sales tax exemption for products and services for end-user equipment used for the construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the backbone of the Allied Radio Metric for Emergency Response (ARMER) public safety radio system, including public safety radio dispatch centers. The ARMER system is a shared network of radio towers, equipment shelters, and radio transmission equipment used by state agencies, local governments, and other emergency responders. This bill would also exempt sales and purchases of public safety systems other than ARMER. Local jurisdictions have received sales tax exemptions as they built their systems to join the backbone network, but a statewide exemption has never been authorized.

Effective retroactively for sales and purchases made after June 30, 2005. Purchasers may apply for a refund of sales tax already paid on eligible purchases through June 30, 2014.

NBP:dv

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[Authors and Status](#)

[List versions](#)



S.F. No. 472, as introduced - 88th Legislative Session (2013-2014) Posted on Feb 13, 2013

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to taxation; sales and use; expanding exemption for public safety radio
- 1.3 communication systems; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.70,
- 1.4 subdivision 8.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.70, subdivision 8, is amended to read:
- 1.7 Subd. 8. **Regionwide Public safety radio communication system systems;**
- 1.8 **products and services.** (a) Products and services including, but not limited to, end user
- 1.9 equipment used for construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, and enhancement
- 1.10 of the backbone system of the regionwide public safety radio communication system
- 1.11 established under sections 403.21 to 403.40, are exempt. For purposes of this subdivision,
- 1.12 backbone system is defined in section 403.21, subdivision 9. This subdivision is effective
- 1.13 for purchases, sales, storage, use, or consumption for use in the first and second phases of
- 1.14 the system, as defined in section 403.21, subdivisions 3, 10, and 11, that portion of the
- 1.15 third phase of the system that is located in the southeast district of the State Patrol and
- 1.16 the counties of Benton, Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright, and that portion of the system
- 1.17 that is located in Itasca County.
- 1.18 (b) Products and services, including, but not limited to, end-user equipment used
- 1.19 for construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, and enhancement of public safety
- 1.20 radio communication systems not already exempt under paragraph (a), including public
- 1.21 safety radio dispatch centers, are exempt.
- 1.22 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective retroactively for sales and purchases
- 1.23 made after April 30, 2005. Purchasers may apply for a refund of tax paid for qualifying
- 1.24 purchases under this subdivision made after April 30, 2005, and before July 1, 2013, in the
- 2.1 manner provided in section 297A.75. Notwithstanding limitations on claims for refunds
- 2.2 under section 289A.40, claims may be filed with the commissioner until June 30, 2014.

Please direct all comments concerning issues or legislation
to your [House Member](#) or [State Senator](#).

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[General questions or comments.](#)

last updated: 04/16/2012

Minnesota State Legislature

Minnesota Senate

SF 63 Status in the **Senate** for the 88th Legislature (2013 - 2014)

Current bill text: As Introduced
[Version List](#)

Companion: [HF118](#);
[Companion Text](#)
[House Search](#)

Revisor number: 13-0633

[Long Description](#) [Committee Hearings and Actions](#) [Senate Counsel & Research Summary](#)

Description
Public safety radio equipment sales tax exemption expansion

Authors
[Westrom](#); [Eken](#); [Koenen](#); [Ingebrigtsen](#); [Dahms](#)

Actions
 [Separated](#) [Chronological](#)

Senate

01/22/2013 Introduction and first reading	Intro pg. 77
01/22/2013 Referred to Taxes	
01/28/2013 Author added Dahms	pg. 107



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S.F. No. 63, as introduced - 88th Legislative Session (2013-2014) Posted on Jan 17, 2013

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to taxation; sales and use; expanding the exemption for public safety
- 1.3 radio communication systems;amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section
- 1.4 297A.70, subdivision 8.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 297A.70, subdivision 8, is amended to read:
- 1.7 Subd. 8. **Regionwide public safety radio communication system; products and**
- 1.8 **services.** Products and services including, but not limited to, end user equipment used for
- 1.9 construction, ownership, operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the backbone system
- 1.10 of the regionwide public safety radio communication system established under sections
- 1.11 403.21 to 403.40, are exempt. For purposes of this subdivision, backbone system is defined
- 1.12 in section 403.21, subdivision 9. ~~This subdivision is effective for purchases, sales, storage,~~
- 1.13 ~~use, or consumption for use in the first and second phases of the system, as defined in~~
- 1.14 ~~section 403.21, subdivisions 3, 10, and 11, that portion of the third phase of the system that~~
- 1.15 ~~is located in the southeast district of the State Patrol and the counties of Denton, Sherburne,~~
- 1.16 ~~Stearns, and Wright, and that portion of the system that is located in Itasca County.~~
- 1.17 EFFECTIVE DATE.~~This section is effective for sales and purchases made after~~
- 1.18 June 30, 2013.

Please direct all comments concerning issues or legislation to your [House Member](#) or [State Senator](#).

For Legislative Staff or for directions to the Capitol, visit the [Contact Us](#) page.

[General questions or comments.](#)

last updated: 04/18/2012

