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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

**H. F. No. 262**

01/20/2015 Authored by Smith, Scott, Lesch and Winkler  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Civil Law and Data Practices

01/29/2015 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register as Amended  
Read Second Time

02/26/2015 Calendar for the Day  
Read Third Time  
Passed by the House and transmitted to the Senate

05/11/2015 Returned to the House as Amended by the Senate  
Read Third Time as Amended by the Senate  
Repassed by the House

A bill for an act

1.1 relating to property; modifying government approval of plats; authorizing  
1.2 new certificate by examiner's directive after cancellation of contract for deed;  
1.3 authorizing new certificate of possessory interest by directive after cancellation  
1.4 of contract for deed; providing for apportionment of estate taxes; amending  
1.5 Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 505.03, subdivision 1; 508.58, by adding a  
1.6 subdivision; 508A.58, subdivision 2, by adding a subdivision; 524.3-916.  
1.7

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

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 505.03, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.10 Subdivision 1. **City, town, and county approval.** Plats shall, except in cities whose  
1.11 charters provide for official supervision of plats by municipal officers or bodies, together  
1.12 with an abstract ~~and~~ certificate of title, or other satisfactory evidence of title, be presented  
1.13 for approval to the council of the city or town board of towns wherein there reside over  
1.14 5,000 people in which the land is located; and, if the land is located outside the limits of  
1.15 any city, or such town, then to the board of county commissioners of the county in which  
1.16 the land is located. For purposes of this subdivision, "satisfactory evidence of title" must  
1.17 be determined by the city council, town board, or board of county commissioners and  
1.18 must include an abstract of title, certificate of title, title opinion, title commitment, or title  
1.19 policy. Plats that subdivide land are subject to the approval of the elected body of the local  
1.20 governmental units exercising authority over the subdivision of the land. Plats that only  
1.21 delineate existing parcels or comply with a minor subdivision procedure may be approved  
1.22 by a local government official designated by the governing body of the local governmental  
1.23 unit exercising authority over the subdivision of land.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 508.58, is amended by adding a subdivision  
2.2 to read:

2.3 Subd. 5. Examiner of titles directive; cancellation of contract for deed. The  
2.4 registrar shall carry the memorials of all documents relating to a contract for deed  
2.5 cancellation until directed to remove them by court order or written examiner's directive.  
2.6 The examiner of titles may issue a written directive upon the request of the registered  
2.7 owner or other person in interest if documents evidencing a legally sufficient cancellation  
2.8 under section 559.21 have been of record on the certificate of title or certificate of  
2.9 possessory title for at least five years. The documents must include a copy of the notice  
2.10 of cancellation of contract for deed with proof of service thereof, and the affidavit of  
2.11 the seller, the seller's agent, or the seller's attorney showing that the purchaser has not  
2.12 complied with the terms of the notice. The court order or written directive of the examiner  
2.13 of titles must also specify the instruments the registrar shall omit from any successor  
2.14 certificate of title because of cancellation of the contract for deed.

2.15 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 508A.58, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.16 Subd. 2. Examiner of titles directive; foreclosure by action. Any person who has  
2.17 become the owner in fee of land registered under sections 508A.01 to 508A.85, or any part  
2.18 of the land, pursuant to a mortgage foreclosure by action under chapter 581 is entitled to a  
2.19 new CPT for the land described in the sheriff's certificate of sale or so much of the land as  
2.20 may be described in the CPT, after the redemption period expires. The registrar shall enter  
2.21 a new CPT only pursuant to the court order provided in subdivision 1 or upon the written  
2.22 directive of the examiner of titles as to the legal sufficiency of the mortgage foreclosure  
2.23 proceeding. The directive of the examiner of titles also must specify the instruments the  
2.24 registrar shall omit from the new CPT by virtue of the foreclosure.

2.25 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 508A.58, is amended by adding a subdivision  
2.26 to read:

2.27 Subd. 3. Examiner of titles directive; cancellation of contract for deed.  
2.28 The registrar shall carry the memorials of all documents relating to a contract for  
2.29 deed cancellation until directed to remove them by court order or written examiner's  
2.30 directive. The examiner of titles may issue a written directive upon the request of the  
2.31 registered owner or other person in interest if documents evidencing a legally sufficient  
2.32 cancellation under section 559.21 have been of record on the CPT for at least five  
2.33 years. The documents must include a copy of the notice of cancellation of contract for  
2.34 deed with proof of service thereof, and the affidavit of the seller, the seller's agent, or

3.1 the seller's attorney showing that the purchaser has not complied with the terms of the  
 3.2 notice. The court order or written directive of the examiner of titles must also specify the  
 3.3 instruments the registrar shall omit from any successor CPT or certificate of title because  
 3.4 of cancellation of the contract for deed.

3.5 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 524.3-916, is amended to read:

3.6 **524.3-916 APPORTIONMENT OF ESTATE TAXES AND**  
 3.7 **GENERATION-SKIPPING TAX.**

3.8 (a) For purposes of this section:

3.9 (1) "estate" means the gross estate of a decedent as determined for the purpose of  
 3.10 federal estate tax or the estate tax payable to this state;

3.11 (2) "decedent's generation-skipping transfers" means all generation-skipping transfers  
 3.12 as determined for purposes of the federal generation-skipping tax which occur by reason  
 3.13 of the decedent's death which relate to property which is included in the decedent's estate;

3.14 (3) "person" means any individual, partnership, association, joint stock company,  
 3.15 corporation, limited liability company, government, political subdivision, governmental  
 3.16 agency, or local governmental agency;

3.17 (4) "person interested in the estate" means any person entitled to receive, or who has  
 3.18 received, from a decedent or by reason of the death of a decedent any property or interest  
 3.19 therein included in the decedent's estate. It includes a personal representative, guardian,  
 3.20 conservator, trustee, and custodian;

3.21 (5) "state" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District  
 3.22 of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

3.23 (6) "estate tax" means the federal estate tax and the state estate tax determined by the  
 3.24 commissioner of revenue pursuant to chapter 291 and interest and penalties imposed in  
 3.25 addition to the tax;

3.26 (7) "decedent's generation-skipping tax" means the federal generation-skipping  
 3.27 tax imposed on the decedent's generation-skipping transfers and interest and penalties  
 3.28 imposed in addition to the tax;

3.29 (8) "fiduciary" means personal representative or trustee.

3.30 (b) ~~Unless the will or other governing instrument otherwise provides:~~ Any tax  
 3.31 occasioned by a decedent's death shall be apportioned as set forth in clauses (1) to (4).

3.32 (1) ~~the Estate tax taxes~~ shall be apportioned among all persons interested in the  
 3.33 estate. ~~The apportionment is to be made~~ in the proportion that the value of the interest of  
 3.34 each person interested in the estate bears to the total value of the interests of all persons

4.1 interested in the estate. The values used in determining the tax ~~are to~~ shall be used ~~for~~  
4.2 ~~that purpose; and~~ in apportioning the tax.

4.3 (2) Notwithstanding the general rule set forth in clause (1), if property is included in  
4.4 the decedent's gross estate pursuant to section 2044 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
4.5 as amended, or any similar provision of any state estate tax law, the difference between the  
4.6 total estate tax payable by the decedent's estate and the amount of estate tax that would  
4.7 have been payable by the decedent's estate if the property had not been included in the  
4.8 decedent's gross estate shall be apportioned ratably among the holders of interests in the  
4.9 property. The values used in determining the tax shall be used in apportioning the tax. The  
4.10 balance of the tax, if any, shall be apportioned as provided in clause (1).

4.11 (3) The decedent's generation-skipping tax shall be apportioned as provided by  
4.12 federal law. To the extent not provided by federal law, the decedent's generation-skipping  
4.13 tax shall be apportioned among all persons receiving the decedent's generation-skipping  
4.14 transfers whose tax apportionment is not provided by federal law in the proportion that the  
4.15 value of the transfer to each person bears to the total value of all such transfers.

4.16 (4) If the decedent's will or other written instrument directs a method of  
4.17 apportionment of estate tax or of the decedent's generation-skipping tax different from  
4.18 the ~~method~~ methods described in this section, the method described in the will or other  
4.19 written instrument ~~controls~~ shall control; provided, however, that:

4.20 (i) unless the decedent's will or other written instrument specifically indicates an  
4.21 intent to waive any right of recovery under section 2207A of the Internal Revenue Code of  
4.22 1986, as amended, estate taxes on property described in clause (2) must be apportioned  
4.23 under the method described in ~~this section to property included in the decedent's estate~~  
4.24 ~~under section 2044 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended~~ clause (2); and

4.25 (ii) unless the decedent's will or other written instrument specifically indicates an  
4.26 intent to waive any right of recovery under section 2207B of the Internal Revenue Code of  
4.27 1986, as amended, estate taxes ~~must be apportioned under the method described in this~~  
4.28 ~~section to~~ on property included in the decedent's estate under section 2036 of the Internal  
4.29 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, must be apportioned under the method described  
4.30 in clause (1).

4.31 (c)(1) The court in which venue lies for the administration of the estate of a decedent,  
4.32 on petition for the purpose may determine the apportionment of the estate tax or of the  
4.33 decedent's generation-skipping tax.

4.34 (2) If the court finds that it is inequitable to apportion interest and penalties in  
4.35 the manner provided in subsection (b), because of special circumstances, it may direct  
4.36 apportionment thereof in the manner it finds equitable.

5.1 (3) If the court finds that the assessment of penalties and interest assessed in relation  
5.2 to the estate tax or the decedent's generation-skipping tax is due to delay caused by the  
5.3 negligence of the fiduciary, the court may charge the fiduciary with the amount of the  
5.4 assessed penalties and interest.

5.5 (4) In any action to recover from any person interested in the estate the amount of  
5.6 the estate tax or of the decedent's generation-skipping tax apportioned to the person in  
5.7 accordance with this section the determination of the court in respect thereto shall be  
5.8 prima facie correct.

5.9 (d)(1) The personal representative or other person in possession of the property  
5.10 of the decedent required to pay the estate tax or the decedent's generation-skipping tax  
5.11 may withhold from any property distributable to any person interested in the estate,  
5.12 upon its distribution, the amount of any taxes attributable to the person's interest. If the  
5.13 property in possession of the personal representative or other person required to pay any  
5.14 taxes and distributable to any person interested in the estate is insufficient to satisfy the  
5.15 proportionate amount of the taxes determined to be due from the person, the personal  
5.16 representative or other person required to pay any taxes may recover the deficiency from  
5.17 the person interested in the estate. If the property is not in the possession of the personal  
5.18 representative or the other person required to pay any taxes, the personal representative or  
5.19 the other person required to pay any taxes may recover from any person interested in the  
5.20 estate the amount of any taxes apportioned to the person in accordance with this section.

5.21 (2) If property held by the personal representative or other person in possession  
5.22 of the property of the decedent required to pay the estate tax or the decedent's  
5.23 generation-skipping tax is distributed prior to final apportionment of the estate tax or  
5.24 the decedent's generation-skipping tax, the distributee shall provide a bond or other  
5.25 security for the apportionment liability in the form and amount prescribed by the personal  
5.26 representative or other person, as the case may be.

5.27 (e)(1) In making an apportionment, allowances shall be made for any exemptions  
5.28 granted, any classification made of persons interested in the estate and for any deductions  
5.29 and credits allowed by the law imposing the tax.

5.30 (2) Any exemption or deduction allowed by reason of the relationship of any person  
5.31 to the decedent, by reason of the purposes of the gift, or by allocation to the gift (either  
5.32 by election by the fiduciary or by operation of federal law), inures to the benefit of the  
5.33 person bearing such relationship or receiving the gift; but if an interest is subject to a prior  
5.34 present interest which is not allowable as a deduction, the tax apportionable against the  
5.35 present interest shall be paid from principal.

6.1 (3) Any deduction for property previously taxed and any credit for gift taxes or  
6.2 death taxes of a foreign country paid by the decedent or the decedent's estate inures to the  
6.3 proportionate benefit of all persons liable to apportionment.

6.4 (4) Any credit for inheritance, succession or estate taxes or taxes in the nature  
6.5 thereof applicable to property or interests includable in the estate, inures to the benefit of  
6.6 the persons or interests chargeable with the payment thereof to the extent proportionately  
6.7 that the credit reduces the tax.

6.8 (5) To the extent that property passing to or in trust for a surviving spouse or any  
6.9 charitable, public or similar gift or devise is not an allowable deduction for purposes of  
6.10 the estate tax solely by reason of an estate tax imposed upon and deductible from the  
6.11 property, the property is not included in the computation provided for in subsection (b)(1)  
6.12 hereof, and to that extent no apportionment is made against the property. The sentence  
6.13 immediately preceding does not apply to any case if the result would be to deprive the  
6.14 estate of a deduction otherwise allowable under section 2053(d) of the Internal Revenue  
6.15 Code of 1986, as amended, of the United States, relating to deduction for state death taxes  
6.16 on transfers for public, charitable, or religious uses.

6.17 (f) No interest in income and no estate for years or for life or other temporary interest  
6.18 in any property or fund is subject to apportionment as between the temporary interest  
6.19 and the remainder. The estate tax on the temporary interest and the estate tax, if any, on  
6.20 the remainder is chargeable against the corpus of the property or funds subject to the  
6.21 temporary interest and remainder. The decedent's generation-skipping tax is chargeable  
6.22 against the property which constitutes the decedent's generation-skipping transfer.

6.23 (g) Neither the personal representative nor other person required to pay the tax is  
6.24 under any duty to institute any action to recover from any person interested in the estate  
6.25 the amount of the estate tax or of the decedent's generation-skipping tax apportioned to the  
6.26 person until the final determination of the tax. A personal representative or other person  
6.27 required to pay the estate tax or decedent's generation-skipping tax who institutes the  
6.28 action within a reasonable time after final determination of the tax is not subject to any  
6.29 liability or surcharge because any portion of the tax apportioned to any person interested  
6.30 in the estate was collectible at a time following the death of the decedent but thereafter  
6.31 became uncollectible. If the personal representative or other person required to pay the  
6.32 estate tax or decedent's generation-skipping tax cannot collect from any person interested  
6.33 in the estate the amount of the tax apportioned to the person, the amount not recoverable  
6.34 shall be equitably apportioned among the other persons interested in the estate who are  
6.35 subject to apportionment of the tax involved.

7.1 (h) A personal representative acting in another state or a person required to pay the  
7.2 estate tax or decedent's generation-skipping tax domiciled in another state may institute an  
7.3 action in the courts of this state and may recover a proportionate amount of the federal  
7.4 estate tax, of an estate tax payable to another state or of a death duty due by a decedent's  
7.5 estate to another state, or of the decedent's generation-skipping tax, from a person  
7.6 interested in the estate who is either domiciled in this state or who owns property in this  
7.7 state subject to attachment or execution. For the purposes of the action the determination  
7.8 of apportionment by the court having jurisdiction of the administration of the decedent's  
7.9 estate in the other state is prima facie correct.

7.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for decedents dying after December  
7.11 31, 2015.