

## CHAPTER 348—H. F. No. 1601

*An act relating to tax-forfeited land sales; providing that the classification or reclassification of such lands need not be approved by town boards; amending Minnesota Statutes 1957, Section 282.01, Subdivision 1.*

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1957, Section 282.01, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

282.01 Subdivision 1. **Classification; use; exchange.** *Except as ownership of particular tracts of land should be held by the state or its subdivisions for a recognized public purpose and public access, it is the general policy of this state to encourage return of tax-forfeited lands to private ownership and the tax rolls through sale, and classification of lands according to this chapter is not in contravention of this general policy.* All parcels of land becoming the property of the state in trust under the provisions of any law now existing or hereafter enacted declaring the forfeiture of lands to the state for taxes, shall be classified by the county board of the county wherein such parcels lie as conservation or non-conservation. Such classification shall be made with consideration, among other things, to the present use of adjacent lands, the productivity of the soil, the character of forest or other growth, accessibility of lands to established roads, schools, and other public services, and their peculiar suitability or desirability for particular uses. Such classification, furthermore, shall aid: to encourage and foster a mode of land utilization that will facilitate the economical and adequate provision of transportation, roads, water supply, drainage, sanitation, education, and recreation; to facilitate reduction of governmental expenditures; to conserve and develop the natural resources; and to foster and develop agriculture and other industries in the districts and places bested suited thereto. In making such classification the county board may make use of such data and information as may be made available by any office or department of the federal, state, or local governments, or by any other person or agency possessing information pertinent thereto at the time such classification is made. Such lands may be reclassified from time to time as the county board may deem necessary or desirable, except as to conservation lands held by the state free from any trust in favor of any taxing district. Provided that if any such lands are located within the boundaries of any organized town, *with taxable valuation in excess of \$20,000* or incorporated municipality, the classification or reclassification and sale shall first be approved by the

town board of such town or the governing body of such municipality insofar as the lands located therein are concerned. Any tax forfeited lands may be sold by the county board to any organized or incorporated governmental subdivision of the state for any public purpose for which such subdivision is authorized to acquire property or may be released from the trust in favor of the taxing districts upon application of any state agency for any authorized use at not less than their value as determined by the county board. The commissioner of taxation shall have power to convey by deed in the name of the state any tract of tax-forfeited land held in trust in favor of the taxing districts, to any governmental subdivision for any authorized public use, provided that an application therefor shall be submitted to the commissioner with a statement of facts as to the use to be made of such tract and the need therefor and the recommendation of the county board. The deed of conveyance shall be upon a form approved by the attorney general and shall be conditioned upon continued use for the purpose stated in the application, provided, however, that if the governing body of such governmental subdivision by resolution determines that some other public use shall be made of such lands, and such change of use is approved by the county board and an application for such change of use is made to the commissioner, and approved by him, such changed use may be made of such lands without the necessity of the governing body conveying the lands back to the state and securing a new conveyance from the state to the governmental subdivision for such new public use.

Whenever any governmental subdivision to which any tax-forfeited land has been conveyed for a specified public use as provided in this section shall fail to put such land to such use, or to some other authorized public use as provided herein, or shall abandon such use, the governing body of the subdivision shall authorize the proper officers to convey the same, or such portion thereof not required for an authorized public use, to the State of Minnesota, and such officers shall execute a deed of such conveyance forthwith, which conveyance shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner and in form approved by the attorney general, provided, however, that a sale, lease, transfer or other conveyance of such lands by a housing and redevelopment authority as authorized by sections 462.411 to 462.711 shall not be an abandonment of such use and such lands shall not be reconveyed to the state nor shall they revert to the state. No vote of the people shall be required for such conveyance. In case any such land shall not be so conveyed to the state, the commissioner of taxation shall by written instrument, in form approved by the attorney gen-

eral, declare the same to have reverted to the state, and shall serve a notice thereof, with a copy of the declaration, by registered mail upon the clerk or recorder of the governmental subdivision concerned, provided, that no declaration of reversion shall be made earlier than five years from the date of conveyance for failure to put such land to such use or from the date of abandonment of such use if such lands have been put to such use. The commissioner shall file the original declaration in his office, with verified proof of service as herein required. The governmental subdivision may appeal to the district court of the county in which the land lies by filing with the clerk of court a notice of appeal, specifying the grounds of appeal and the description of the land involved, mailing a copy thereof by registered mail to the commissioner of taxation, and filing a copy thereof for record with the register of deeds or registrar of titles, all within 30 days after the mailing of the notice of reversion. The appeal shall be tried by the court in like manner as a civil action. If no appeal is taken as herein provided, the declaration of reversion shall be final. The commissioner of taxation shall file for record with the register of deeds or registrar of titles, of the county within which the land lies, a certified copy of the declaration of reversion and proof of service.

Any city of the first class now or hereafter having a population of 450,000, or over, or its board of park commissioners, which has acquired tax-forfeited land for a specified public use pursuant to the terms of this section, may convey said land in exchange for other land of substantially equal worth located in said city of the first class, provided that the land conveyed to said city of the first class now or hereafter having a population of 450,000, or over, or its board of park commissioners, in exchange shall be subject to the public use and reversionary provisions of this section; the tax-forfeited land so conveyed shall thereafter be free and discharged from the public use and reversionary provisions of this section, provided that said exchange shall in no way affect the mineral or mineral rights of the State of Minnesota, if any, in the lands so exchanged.

Approved April 18, 1959.

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CHAPTER 349—S. F. No. 332

[Coded]

*An act relating to the effect of closing county buildings or offices therein.*