

A joint legislative committee on agricultural land preservation and conservation shall be established by July 1, 1979, and shall expire by June 30, 1982, unless extended by legislative action. The committee shall be composed of eight members of the house of representatives from the transportation, agriculture, environment and natural resources, local and urban affairs, and tax committees appointed by the speaker and the chairman of the committee on rules and legislative administration; and eight members of the senate from the transportation, agriculture and natural resources, local government, tax, and governmental operations committees appointed by the subcommittee on committees. The committee shall elect a chairman from among its members. The expenses of and per diem payments to committee members shall be paid from the legislative expense fund of their respective body upon approval of the chairman of the joint committee. Other expenses of the committee shall be evenly divided between the house of representatives and the senate.

Sec. 2. Laws 1979, Chapter 315, Section 3, is amended to read:

Sec. 3. **STATE PLANNING AGENCY.**

The director of the state planning agency shall be responsible for the preparation of the studies, inventories, and reports which the joint legislative committee and the agency deem necessary to carry out the intent of section 1. The planning agency shall summarize, and if and where possible evaluate laws, programs and practices in other states relating to agricultural land preservation and conservation. The agency, in cooperation with other units and agencies of government shall identify available federal funding for research contemplated by sections 1 to 4. The agency shall coordinate all activities with other state agencies and local units of government necessary to fulfill the intent of section 1, and shall formulate the procedures necessary to ensure public education and involvement in agricultural land preservation and conservation and assess community attitudes in these matters. The agency shall study and recommend means of coordinating federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and programs relating to agricultural land preservation and conservation.

Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This act is effective the day following final enactment.

Approved May 4, 1981

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**CHAPTER 79 — H.F.No. 569**

*An act relating to housing; providing new standards and procedures for disclosing conflicts of interest for commissioners and employees of housing and redevelopment authorities; establishing penalties; proposing new law coded in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 462; repealing Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 462.431.*

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

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

Section 1. [462.432] CONFLICT OF INTEREST; PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO DISCLOSE.

Subdivision 1. DISCLOSURE. Before taking an action or making a decision which could substantially affect his financial interests or those of an organization with which he is associated, a commissioner or employee of an authority shall: (a) prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict of interest; and (b) submit the statement to the board of commissioners of the authority, whereupon the disclosure shall be entered upon the minutes of the authority at its next meeting. The disclosure statement shall be submitted no later than one week after the employee or commissioner becomes aware of the potential conflict of interest. However, no disclosure statement shall be required if the effect on the commissioner or employee of the relevant decision or act will be no greater than on other members of his business, profession or occupation. Any individual who knowingly fails to submit a statement required by this subdivision or submits a statement which he knows contains false information or which he knows omits required information is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. EFFECT OF DISCLOSURE. If an employee has a potential conflict of interest, his superior shall immediately assign the matter to another employee who does not have a potential conflict of interest. A commissioner who has a potential conflict of interest shall not take part in the action or decision in question and shall not be counted toward a quorum in any meeting of the authority considering such action or decision.

Subd. 3. CONFLICTS FORBIDDEN. A commissioner or employee of an authority who knowingly takes part in any manner in making any sale, lease, or contract in his official capacity in which he has a personal financial interest is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Subd. 4. AGENT OR ATTORNEY. For a period of one year after termination of his position as a commissioner or employee of an authority no former commissioner or former employee of an authority shall appear personally before any court or governmental department or agency as agent or attorney for anyone other than the authority in connection with any proceeding, application, request for ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, or other particular matter in which the authority is substantially interested, and with respect to which he took any action or made any decision as a commissioner or employee of the authority at any time within a period of one year prior to the termination of such employment.

Subd. 5. LIMITATIONS. With respect to each program established by the authority to provide financial assistance or financing with respect to real property other than rental assistance programs, an employee or commissioner may receive such financial assistance or financing not more than once.

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

Subd. 6. INJUNCTION. The county attorney may seek an injunction in the district court to enforce the provisions of this section.

Sec. 2. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 462.431, is repealed.

Approved May 4, 1981

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**CHAPTER 80 — H.F.No. 708**

*An act relating to public improvements; permitting deferral of special assessments in instances of hardship; amending Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 435.193.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 435.193, is amended to read:

**435.193 SENIOR CITIZENS HARDSHIP SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DEFERRAL.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of any law to the contrary, any county, statutory or home rule charter city, or town, making a special assessment may, at its discretion, defer the payment of that assessment for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older or retired by virtue of a permanent and total disability for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments. Any county, statutory or home rule charter city, or town electing to defer special assessments shall adopt an ordinance or resolution establishing standards and guidelines for determining the existence of a hardship and for determining the existence of a disability, but nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the determination of hardship on the basis of exceptional and unusual circumstances not covered by the standards and guidelines where the determination is made in a nondiscriminatory manner and does not give the applicant an unreasonable preference or advantage over other applicants.

Approved May 4, 1981

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**CHAPTER 81 — H.F.No. 847**

*An act relating to highway traffic regulations; providing for the designation and undesignation of routes to carry certain gross weights; amending Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 169.832, Subdivision 11; repealing Minnesota Statutes 1980, Section 169.832, Subdivision 12.*

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.