

Report on Minnesota Manufactured Housing Relocation Trust Fund

Minn. Stat. § 327C.095, Subd. 13 (h) requires the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to submit a report on the Minnesota Manufactured Housing Relocation Trust Fund by January 15 of each year.

The Minnesota Manufactured Housing Relocation Trust Fund (Trust Fund) was established by Laws of Minnesota 2007, Chapter 141. This Act requires owners of manufactured homes who rent lots in a manufactured housing park to make annual payments of \$12 to be deposited into the Trust Fund. Payments are collected by the manufactured housing park owner and forwarded to the Commissioner of Finance. Information about each housing owner who remitted payment, as well as those who declined to make payment, must be submitted by the park owner to the Commissioner of Finance with a copy to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. (Minn. Stat. § 327C.095, Subd. 12(c))

The Act requires park owners to make payments to the Trust Fund when a manufactured housing park is being closed or the land will no longer be used as a manufactured housing park. The Act sets caps on the amount paid by the park owner depending on whether a home will be moved or abandoned (Minn. Stat. § 327C.095, Subd. 12 (a)). The municipality in which the closing manufactured home park is located is required to appoint a neutral third party to resolve questions or disputes regarding contributions to and disbursements from the Trust Fund (Minn. Stat. § 327C.095, Subd. 4). Based on the neutral third party's discussions, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency is charged with making payments out of the Trust Fund to home owners and moving and towing contractors.

The Department of Finance has contracted with US Bank Lockbox Services to process checks submitted to the Department of Finance for deposit in the Trust Fund. US Bank Lockbox Services is in the process of reconciling the information submitted by park owners with the amount of money deposited into the Trust Fund. There were some returned checks and discrepancies between the information submitted and amounts received. The reconciliation was originally expected to be completed by March 1, 2008, but is now not expected until much later.

The following is a summary of the Trust Fund receipts and disbursements, based on the information provided by park owners to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. One issue to be reconciled is that not all owners submitted the required copies of summary information to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Updated information based on corrections to the exceptions will be provided when it becomes available.

Number of Homeowners Making Annual Payment in 2007	13,647
Balance in Trust Fund	\$163,764
Payments to Claimants	\$0
Number of Claims (applications) Filed	-0-
Amount of Advances to the Trust Fund	\$0
Percentage of Residents in Parks Reporting Who Paid the Annual Fee	47%
Total Number of Parks Reporting	388

In 2007, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency received notice of two manufactured housing park closures with a total of 107 lots.