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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2059

02/01/2012 Authored by Woodard, Shimanski, Vogel, Johnson and Gruenhagen

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public defenders; amending provisions related to public defender
1.3 representation, appointment, and reimbursement obligations; outlining financial
1.4 responsibility for public defender costs, cost for counsel in CHIPS cases,
1.5 pretrial appeals costs, and standby counsel costs; establishing an appellate
1.6 process working group; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections 244.052,
1.7 subdivision 6; 244.11, subdivision 1; 257.69, subdivision 1; 260B.163,
1.8 subdivision 4; 260B.331, subdivision 5; 260C.163, subdivision 3; 260C.331,
1.9 subdivision 5; 609.115, subdivision 4; 609.131, subdivision 1; 611.14; 611.16;
1.10 611.17; 611.18; 611.20, subdivision 4; 611.215, subdivision 2; 611.26,
1.11 subdivision 6; 611.27, subdivision 5, by adding a subdivision; repealing
1.12 Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections 611.20, subdivision 6; 611.27, subdivision 15.

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

1.14 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 244.052, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

1.15 Subd. 6. **Administrative review.** (a) An offender assigned or reassigned to
1.16 risk level II or III under subdivision 3, paragraph (e) or (h), has the right to seek
1.17 administrative review of an end-of-confinement review committee's risk assessment
1.18 determination. The offender must exercise this right within 14 days of receiving notice
1.19 of the committee's decision by notifying the chair of the committee. Upon receiving the
1.20 request for administrative review, the chair shall notify: (1) the offender; (2) the victim
1.21 or victims of the offender's offense who have requested disclosure or their designee; (3)
1.22 the law enforcement agency that investigated the offender's crime of conviction or, where
1.23 relevant, the law enforcement agency having primary jurisdiction where the offender was
1.24 committed; (4) the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the offender expects
1.25 to reside, providing that the release plan has been approved by the hearings and release
1.26 unit of the department of corrections; and (5) any other individuals the chair may select.
1.27 The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing. A request for a review hearing

2.1 shall not interfere with or delay the notification process under subdivision 4 or 5, unless
 2.2 the administrative law judge orders otherwise for good cause shown.

2.3 (b) An offender who requests a review hearing must be given a reasonable
 2.4 opportunity to prepare for the hearing. The review hearing shall be conducted on the
 2.5 record before an administrative law judge. The review hearing shall be conducted at
 2.6 the correctional facility in which the offender is currently confined. If the offender no
 2.7 longer is incarcerated, the administrative law judge shall determine the place where the
 2.8 review hearing will be conducted. The offender has the burden of proof to show, by a
 2.9 preponderance of the evidence, that the end-of-confinement review committee's risk
 2.10 assessment determination was erroneous. The attorney general or a designee shall defend
 2.11 the end-of-confinement review committee's determination. The offender has the right to
 2.12 be present ~~and be represented by counsel at the hearing~~, to present evidence in support
 2.13 of the offender's position, to call supporting witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses
 2.14 testifying in support of the committee's determination. ~~Counsel for indigent offenders~~
 2.15 ~~shall be provided by the Legal Advocacy Project of the state public defender's office.~~

2.16 (c) After the hearing is concluded, the administrative law judge shall decide
 2.17 whether the end-of-confinement review committee's risk assessment determination
 2.18 was erroneous and, based on this decision, shall either uphold or modify the review
 2.19 committee's determination. The judge's decision shall be in writing and shall include
 2.20 the judge's reasons for the decision. The judge's decision shall be final and a copy of it
 2.21 shall be given to the offender, the victim, the law enforcement agency, and the chair of
 2.22 the end-of-confinement review committee.

2.23 (d) The review hearing is subject to the contested case provisions of chapter 14.

2.24 (e) The administrative law judge may seal any portion of the record of the
 2.25 administrative review hearing to the extent necessary to protect the identity of a victim of
 2.26 or witness to the offender's offense.

2.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2012, and applies to review
 2.28 hearings requested on or after that date.

2.29 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 244.11, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.30 Subdivision 1. **Generally.** An appeal to the Court of Appeals may be taken by the
 2.31 defendant or the state from any sentence imposed or stayed by the district court according
 2.32 to the Rules of Criminal Procedure for the district court of Minnesota, except for any felony
 2.33 committed on or after August 1, 2012, the appellate court shall not review any sentence
 2.34 that is within the presumptive sentencing range under the Sentencing Guidelines. Except

3.1 as otherwise provided in subdivision 3, a dismissal or a resolution of an appeal brought
 3.2 under this section shall not prejudice an appeal brought under any other section or rule.

3.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 257.69, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

3.4 Subdivision 1. **Representation by counsel.** In all proceedings under sections
 3.5 257.51 to 257.74, any party may be represented by counsel. The county attorney shall
 3.6 represent the public authority. The court shall appoint counsel for a party who is unable to
 3.7 pay timely for counsel in proceedings under sections 257.51 to 257.74. The representation
 3.8 of appointed counsel is limited in scope to the issue of establishment of parentage.

3.9 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 260B.163, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

3.10 Subd. 4. **Appointment of counsel.** (a) The child, parent, guardian or custodian has
 3.11 the right to effective assistance of counsel in connection with a proceeding in juvenile
 3.12 court. This right does not apply to a child who is charged with a juvenile petty offense
 3.13 as defined in section 260B.007, subdivision 16, unless the child is charged with a third
 3.14 or subsequent juvenile alcohol or controlled substance offense and may be subject to the
 3.15 alternative disposition described in section 260B.235, subdivision 6.

3.16 (b) The court shall appoint counsel, or standby counsel if the child waives the right
 3.17 to counsel, for a child who is:

3.18 (1) charged by delinquency petition with a gross misdemeanor or felony offense; or

3.19 (2) the subject of a delinquency proceeding in which out-of-home placement has
 3.20 been proposed.

3.21 (c) If they desire counsel but are unable to employ it, the court shall appoint counsel
 3.22 to represent the child or the parents or guardian in any case in which it feels that such an
 3.23 appointment is appropriate, except a juvenile petty offender who does not have the right to
 3.24 counsel under paragraph (a). If the court appoints standby counsel, the cost of counsel
 3.25 shall be paid for by the Office of the State Court Administrator or, if the prosecutor
 3.26 requests the appointment, by the governmental unit conducting the prosecution. In no
 3.27 event may the court order the Board of Public Defense to pay the cost of standby counsel.

3.28 (d) Counsel for the child shall not also act as the child's guardian ad litem.

3.29 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 260B.331, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

3.30 Subd. 5. **Attorneys fees.** In proceedings in which the court has appointed counsel
 3.31 pursuant to section 260B.163, subdivision 4, ~~for a minor unable to employ counsel,~~ the
 3.32 court may inquire into the ability of the parents to pay for such counsel's services and,
 3.33 after giving the parents a reasonable opportunity to be heard, may order the parents to

4.1 pay attorneys fees or reimburse the state for expenses incurred. The court may order
4.2 full or partial payment or reimbursement.

4.3 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 260C.163, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

4.4 Subd. 3. **Appointment of counsel.** (a) The child, parent, guardian or custodian has
4.5 the right to effective assistance of counsel in connection with a proceeding in juvenile
4.6 court as provided in this subdivision.

4.7 (b) Except in proceedings where the sole basis for the petition is habitual truancy,
4.8 ~~if the child, parent, guardian, or custodian desires counsel but is unable to employ it or~~
4.9 the child is ten years of age or older with counsel appointed under sections 260B.163,
4.10 subdivision 4, and 611.14, the court shall appoint, at public expense, counsel to represent
4.11 ~~the child who is ten years of age or older or the parents or guardian in any case in~~
4.12 ~~which it feels that such an appointment is appropriate, parent, guardian, or custodian if~~
4.13 the person would be financially unable to obtain counsel under the guidelines set forth
4.14 in section 611.17.

4.15 (c) In any proceeding where the sole basis for the petition is habitual truancy, the
4.16 child, parent, guardian, and custodian do not have the right to appointment of ~~a public~~
4.17 ~~defender or other~~ counsel at public expense. However, before any out-of-home placement,
4.18 including foster care or inpatient treatment, can be ordered, the court must appoint ~~a~~
4.19 ~~public defender or other~~ counsel at public expense in accordance with ~~paragraph (b)~~
4.20 this subdivision.

4.21 (d) Counsel for the child shall not also act as the child's guardian ad litem.

4.22 (e) In any proceeding where the subject of a petition for a child in need of
4.23 protection or services is not represented by an attorney, the court shall determine the
4.24 child's preferences regarding the proceedings, if the child is of suitable age to express
4.25 a preference.

4.26 (f) Court-appointed counsel under this subdivision is at county expense. The court
4.27 shall appoint only one counsel at public expense to jointly represent the interests of the
4.28 child, parent, guardian, and custodian subject to the jurisdiction of the court unless,
4.29 upon petition of a party, the court determines and makes written findings on the record
4.30 that extraordinary circumstances exist that require counsel to be appointed to represent
4.31 a separate interest of the child, or other parents, guardians, or custodians subject to the
4.32 jurisdiction of the juvenile court. The court shall appoint counsel retained by the county
4.33 to provide representation in juvenile court proceedings unless the court finds there is
4.34 a conflict of interest. Upon a finding of conflict of interest, the county shall contract
4.35 with competent counsel to provide the necessary representation. The county board must

5.1 consult with the chief judge of the judicial district or the judge's designee before retaining
 5.2 counsel under this paragraph.

5.3 (g) Counsel retained by the county under paragraph (f) must meet at least one of
 5.4 the following qualifications: (1) has a minimum of two years' experience handling child
 5.5 protection cases; (2) has a minimum of ten hours' training in handling child protection
 5.6 cases from a course or courses certified by the Supreme Court; or (3) is supervised by an
 5.7 attorney who meets the minimum qualifications under clause (1) or (2).

5.8 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 260C.331, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

5.9 Subd. 5. **Attorneys fees.** In proceedings in which the court has appointed counsel
 5.10 pursuant to section 260C.163, subdivision 3, ~~for a minor unable to employ counsel,~~ the
 5.11 court may inquire into the ability of the parents to pay for such counsel's services and,
 5.12 after giving the parents a reasonable opportunity to be heard, may order the parents to
 5.13 pay attorneys fees or reimburse the county for expenses incurred. The court may order
 5.14 full or partial payment or reimbursement.

5.15 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 609.115, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

5.16 Subd. 4. **Confidential sources of information.** (a) Any report made pursuant to
 5.17 subdivision 1 shall be, if written, provided to counsel for all parties before sentence.
 5.18 The written report shall not disclose confidential sources of information unless the
 5.19 court otherwise directs. On the request of the prosecuting attorney or the defendant's
 5.20 attorney a summary hearing in chambers shall be held on any matter brought in issue,
 5.21 but confidential sources of information shall not be disclosed unless the court otherwise
 5.22 directs. If the presentence report is given orally the defendant or the defendant's attorney
 5.23 shall be permitted to hear the report.

5.24 (b) Any report made under subdivision 1 or 2 shall be provided to counsel for
 5.25 the defendant for purposes of representing the defendant on any appeal or petition for
 5.26 postconviction relief. The reports shall be provided by the court and the commissioner of
 5.27 corrections at no cost to the defendant or the defendant's attorney.

5.28 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 609.131, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

5.29 Subdivision 1. **General rule.** Except as provided in subdivision 2, an alleged
 5.30 misdemeanor violation must be treated as a petty misdemeanor if the prosecuting attorney
 5.31 believes that it is in the interest of justice that the defendant not be imprisoned if convicted
 5.32 and certifies that belief to the court at or before the time of arraignment or pretrial hearing,
 5.33 and the court approves of the certification motion. Prior to the appointment of a public

6.1 defender to represent a defendant charged with a misdemeanor, the court shall inquire of
 6.2 the prosecutor whether the prosecutor intends to certify the case as a petty misdemeanor.
 6.3 The defendant's consent to the certification is not required. When an offense is certified
 6.4 as a petty misdemeanor under this section, the ~~defendant's eligibility for court-appointed~~
 6.5 ~~counsel must be evaluated as though the offense were a misdemeanor~~ defendant is not
 6.6 eligible for the appointment of a public defender.

6.7 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.14, is amended to read:

6.8 **611.14 RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION BY PUBLIC DEFENDER.**

6.9 The following persons who are financially unable to obtain counsel are entitled to be
 6.10 represented by a public defender:

6.11 (1) a person charged with a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor including a
 6.12 person charged under sections 629.01 to 629.29;

6.13 (2) a person appealing from a conviction of a felony ~~or~~ gross misdemeanor, or
 6.14 misdemeanor, or a person convicted of a felony ~~or~~ gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor,
 6.15 who is pursuing a postconviction proceeding and who has not already had a direct appeal
 6.16 of the conviction;

6.17 (3) a person who is entitled to be represented by counsel under section 609.14,
 6.18 subdivision 2; or

6.19 (4) a minor ten years of age or older who is entitled to be represented by counsel
 6.20 under section 260B.163, subdivision 4, ~~or 260C.163, subdivision 3.~~

6.21 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.16, is amended to read:

6.22 **611.16 REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER.**

6.23 Any person described in section 611.14 ~~or any other person entitled by law to~~
 6.24 ~~representation by counsel~~, may at any time request the court in which the matter is pending,
 6.25 or the court in which the conviction occurred, to appoint a public defender to represent
 6.26 the person. ~~In a proceeding defined by clause (2) of section 611.14, application for the~~
 6.27 ~~appointment of a public defender may also be made to a judge of the Supreme Court.~~

6.28 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.17, is amended to read:

6.29 **611.17 FINANCIAL INQUIRY; STATEMENTS; CO-PAYMENT;**
 6.30 **STANDARDS FOR DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENSE ELIGIBILITY.**

6.31 (a) Each judicial district must screen requests for representation by the district public
 6.32 defender. A defendant is financially unable to obtain counsel if:

7.1 (1) the defendant, ~~or any dependent of the defendant who resides in the same~~
 7.2 ~~household as the defendant, receives means-tested governmental benefits; or is charged~~
 7.3 with a misdemeanor and has an annual household income not greater than 125 percent of
 7.4 the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the United States
 7.5 Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of United States Code,
 7.6 title 42, section 9902(2);

7.7 (2) the defendant is charged with a gross misdemeanor and has an annual household
 7.8 income not greater than 150 percent of the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the
 7.9 Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under
 7.10 the authority of United States Code, title 42, section 9902(2);

7.11 (3) the defendant is charged with a felony and has an annual household income not
 7.12 greater than 175 percent of the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal
 7.13 Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under the
 7.14 authority of United States Code, title 42, section 9902(2); or

7.15 ~~(2)~~ (4) the court determines that the defendant, through any combination of liquid
 7.16 assets and current income, would be unable to pay the reasonable costs charged by private
 7.17 counsel in that judicial district for a defense of the same matter.

7.18 (b) Upon a request for the appointment of counsel, the court shall make an
 7.19 appropriate inquiry into the determination of financial circumstances eligibility under
 7.20 paragraph (a) of the applicant, who shall submit a financial statement under oath or
 7.21 affirmation setting forth the applicant's assets and liabilities, including the value of any
 7.22 real property owned by the applicant, whether homestead or otherwise, less the amount of
 7.23 any encumbrances on the real property, the source or sources of income, and any other
 7.24 information required by the court. The applicant shall be under a continuing duty while
 7.25 represented by a public defender to disclose any changes in the applicant's financial
 7.26 circumstances that might be relevant to the applicant's eligibility for a public defender.
 7.27 The state public defender shall furnish appropriate forms for the financial statements,
 7.28 which must be used by the district courts throughout the state. The forms must contain
 7.29 conspicuous notice of the applicant's continuing duty to disclose to the court changes in the
 7.30 applicant's financial circumstances. The forms must also contain conspicuous notice of the
 7.31 applicant's obligation to make a co-payment for the services of the district public defender,
 7.32 as specified under paragraph (c). The information contained in the statement shall be
 7.33 confidential and for the exclusive use of the court and the public defender appointed by
 7.34 the court to represent the applicant except for any prosecution under section 609.48. A
 7.35 refusal to execute the financial statement or produce financial records constitutes a waiver
 7.36 of the right to the appointment of a public defender. The court shall not appoint a district

8.1 public defender to a defendant who is financially able to retain private counsel but refuses
 8.2 to do so, refuses to execute the financial statement or refuses to provide information
 8.3 necessary to determine financial eligibility under this section, or waives the appointment
 8.4 of a public defender under section 611.19.

8.5 An inquiry to determine financial eligibility of a defendant for the appointment of
 8.6 the district public defender shall be made whenever possible prior to the court appearance
 8.7 and by such persons as the court may direct. This inquiry may be combined with the
 8.8 prerelease investigation provided for in Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure 6.02,
 8.9 subdivision 3. In no case shall the district public defender be required to perform this
 8.10 inquiry or investigate the defendant's assets or eligibility. The court has the sole duty to
 8.11 conduct a financial inquiry. The inquiry must include the following:

8.12 (1) the liquidity of real estate assets, including the defendant's homestead;
 8.13 (2) any assets that can be readily converted to cash or used to secure a debt;
 8.14 (3) the determination of whether the transfer of an asset is voidable as a fraudulent
 8.15 conveyance; and

8.16 (4) the value of all property transfers occurring on or after the date of the alleged
 8.17 offense. The burden is on the accused to show that the accused is financially unable
 8.18 to afford counsel. Defendants who fail to provide information necessary to determine
 8.19 eligibility shall be deemed ineligible. The court must not appoint the district public
 8.20 defender as advisory counsel or standby counsel. If the court appoints advisory or standby
 8.21 counsel, the cost of counsel shall be paid for by the Office of the State Court Administrator
 8.22 or, if the prosecutor requests the appointment, by the governmental unit conducting the
 8.23 prosecution. In no event may the court order the Board of Public Defense to pay the cost
 8.24 of advisory or standby counsel.

8.25 (c) Upon disposition of the case, an individual who has received public defender
 8.26 services shall pay to the court a \$75 co-payment for representation provided by a public
 8.27 defender, unless the co-payment is, or has been, reduced in part or waived by the court.

8.28 The co-payment must be credited to the general fund. If a term of probation is
 8.29 imposed as a part of an offender's sentence, the co-payment required by this section must
 8.30 not be made a condition of probation. The co-payment required by this section is a civil
 8.31 obligation and must not be made a condition of a criminal sentence.

8.32 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.18, is amended to read:

8.33 **611.18 APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER.**

8.34 If it appears to a court that a person requesting the appointment of counsel satisfies
 8.35 the requirements of this chapter, the court shall order the ~~appropriate~~ public defender to

9.1 represent the person ~~at all further stages of the proceeding through appeal, if any.~~ For a
 9.2 person appealing from a conviction, or a person pursuing a postconviction proceeding
 9.3 and who has not already had a direct appeal of the conviction, according to the standards
 9.4 of sections 611.14, clause (2), and 611.25, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (2), the
 9.5 ~~state chief appellate~~ public defender shall be appointed. For a person covered by section
 9.6 611.14, clause (1), (3), or (4), ~~a~~ the chief district public defender shall be appointed to
 9.7 represent that person. ~~If (a) conflicting interests exist, (b) the district public defender for~~
 9.8 ~~any other reason is unable to act, or (c) the interests of justice require, the state public~~
 9.9 ~~defender may be ordered to represent a person. When the state public defender is directed~~
 9.10 ~~by a court to represent a defendant or other person, the state public defender may assign~~
 9.11 ~~the representation to any district public defender.~~ If at any stage of the proceedings;
 9.12 ~~including an appeal,~~ the court finds that the defendant is financially unable to pay counsel
 9.13 whom the defendant had retained, the court may appoint the ~~appropriate~~ public defender
 9.14 to represent the defendant, as provided in this section. Prior to any court appearance, a
 9.15 public defender may represent a person accused of violating the law, who appears to be
 9.16 financially unable to obtain counsel, and shall continue to represent the person unless it
 9.17 is subsequently determined that the person is financially able to obtain counsel. The
 9.18 representation may be made available at the discretion of the public defender, upon the
 9.19 request of the person or someone on the person's behalf. Any law enforcement officer may
 9.20 notify the public defender of the arrest of any such person.

9.21 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.20, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

9.22 Subd. 4. **Employed defendants; ability to pay.** (a) A court shall order a defendant
 9.23 who is employed when a public defender is appointed, or who becomes employed while
 9.24 represented by a public defender, or who is or becomes able to make partial payments
 9.25 for counsel, to reimburse the state for the cost of the public defender. If reimbursement
 9.26 is required under this subdivision, the court shall order the reimbursement when a
 9.27 public defender is first appointed or as soon as possible after the court determines that
 9.28 reimbursement is required. The court may accept partial reimbursement from the
 9.29 defendant if the defendant's financial circumstances warrant a reduced reimbursement
 9.30 schedule. ~~The court may consider the guidelines in subdivision 6 in determining a~~
 9.31 ~~defendant's reimbursement schedule.~~ If a defendant does not agree to make payments,
 9.32 the court may order the defendant's employer to withhold a percentage of the defendant's
 9.33 income to be turned over to the court. ~~The percentage to be withheld may be determined~~
 9.34 ~~under subdivision 6~~ In determining the percentage to be withheld, the court shall consider

10.1 the income and assets of the defendant based on the financial statement provided by the
 10.2 defendant when applying for the public defender under section 611.17.

10.3 (b) If a court determines under section 611.17 that a defendant is financially unable to
 10.4 pay the reasonable costs charged by private counsel due to the cost of a private retainer fee,
 10.5 the court shall evaluate the defendant's ability to make partial payments or reimbursement.

10.6 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.215, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

10.7 Subd. 2. **Duties and responsibilities.** (a) The board shall approve and recommend
 10.8 to the legislature a budget for the board, the office of state public defender, the judicial
 10.9 district public defenders, and the public defense corporations.

10.10 (b) The board shall establish procedures for distribution of state funding under this
 10.11 chapter to the state and district public defenders and to the public defense corporations.

10.12 (c) The state public defender with the approval of the board shall establish standards
 10.13 for the offices of the state and district public defenders and for the conduct of all appointed
 10.14 counsel systems. The standards must include, but are not limited to:

10.15 (1) standards needed to maintain and operate an office of public defender including
 10.16 requirements regarding the qualifications, training, and size of the legal and supporting
 10.17 staff for a public defender or appointed counsel system;

10.18 (2) standards for public defender caseloads;

10.19 (3) standards and procedures for the eligibility for appointment, assessment, and
 10.20 collection of the costs for legal representation provided by public defenders or appointed
 10.21 counsel;

10.22 (4) standards for contracts between a board of county commissioners and a county
 10.23 public defender system for the legal representation of indigent persons;

10.24 (5) standards prescribing minimum qualifications of counsel appointed under the
 10.25 board's authority or by the courts; and

10.26 (6) standards ensuring the independent, competent, and efficient representation of
 10.27 clients whose cases present conflicts of interest, in both the trial and appellate courts.

10.28 (d) The board may require the reporting of statistical data, budget information, and
 10.29 other cost factors by the state and district public defenders and appointed counsel systems.

10.30 (e) The board shall establish a reasonable reimbursement rate for attorney fees
 10.31 and costs associated with the representation of public defender clients for appeals by
 10.32 a prosecuting attorney of a pretrial order from a district court under section 611.27,
 10.33 subdivision 16.

10.34 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.26, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

11.1 Subd. 6. **Persons defended.** The district public defender shall represent, without
 11.2 charge, a defendant charged with a felony, a gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor when so
 11.3 directed by the district court. The district public defender shall also represent a minor ten
 11.4 years of age or older in the juvenile court when so directed by the juvenile court under
 11.5 section 260B.163, subdivision 4. The district public defender must not serve as advisory
 11.6 counsel or standby counsel. The juvenile court may not order the district public defender
 11.7 to represent a minor who is under the age of ten years, to serve as a guardian ad litem, or
 11.8 to represent a guardian ad litem.

11.9 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.27, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

11.10 Subd. 5. **District public defender budgets and county payment responsibility.**
 11.11 The Board of Public Defense ~~may only fund those items and services in district~~
 11.12 ~~public defender budgets which were included in the original budgets of district public~~
 11.13 ~~defender offices as of January 1, 1990. All other public defense related costs remain the~~
 11.14 ~~responsibility of the counties unless the state specifically appropriates for these. The~~
 11.15 ~~cost of additional state funding of these items and services must be offset by reductions~~
 11.16 ~~in local aids in the same manner as the original state takeover~~ is solely responsible to
 11.17 provide counsel in adult criminal and juvenile delinquency cases, as specified under
 11.18 section 611.14. The court shall not appoint counsel at county expense for representation
 11.19 under section 611.14, except as provided in section 611.26, subdivision 3a, paragraph (c).

11.20 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 611.27, is amended by adding a subdivision
 11.21 to read:

11.22 Subd. 16. **Appeal by prosecuting attorney; attorney fees.** When a prosecuting
 11.23 attorney appeals to the Court of Appeals, in any criminal case, from any pretrial order
 11.24 of the district court, reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred shall be allowed to the
 11.25 defendant on the appeal which shall be paid by the governmental unit responsible for the
 11.26 prosecution involved. If the defendant is represented by a public defender in district court,
 11.27 the fees and costs for an attorney who is hired for purposes of representing the defendant
 11.28 in an appeal by the prosecuting attorney of a pretrial order shall be paid in accordance
 11.29 with the reimbursement rate established by the board of public defense under section
 11.30 611.215, subdivision 2, paragraph (e).

11.31 Sec. 19. **APPELLATE PROCESS WORKING GROUP.**

11.32 The state public defender is requested to convene a working group to study and make
 11.33 policy recommendations for improving the appellate process, including evaluating types of

12.1 cases appropriate for discretionary or mandatory appellate review and identifying possible
12.2 cost efficiencies in the appellate process. The state public defender is requested to serve
12.3 as chair and invite the following organizations to designate three representatives each to
12.4 serve on the working group: (1) the Board of Public Defense; (2) the Minnesota County
12.5 Attorneys' Association; (3) the attorney general's office; (4) the Minnesota Association
12.6 of Criminal Defense Lawyers; (5) the Minnesota Association of City Attorneys; and (6)
12.7 the Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters and Captioners. The working group is
12.8 requested to submit its report and recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority
12.9 members of the house of representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over
12.10 the judiciary by January 15, 2013.

12.11 Sec. 20. **REPEALER.**

12.12 Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections 611.20, subdivision 6; and 611.27, subdivision
12.13 15, are repealed.

APPENDIX
 Repealed Minnesota Statutes: 12-4705

611.20 SUBSEQUENT ABILITY TO PAY COUNSEL.

Subd. 6. **Reimbursement schedule guidelines.** In determining a defendant's reimbursement schedule, the court may derive a specific dollar amount per month by multiplying the defendant's net income by the percent indicated by the following guidelines:

Net Income Per Month of Defendant	Number of Dependents Not Including Defendant				
	4 or more	3	2	1	0
\$200 and below	Percentage based on the ability of the defendant to pay as determined by the court				
\$200 - 350	8%	9.5%	11%	12.5%	14%
\$351 - 500	9%	11%	12.5%	14%	15%
\$501 - 650	10%	12%	14%	15%	17%
\$651 - 800	11%	13.5%	15.5%	17%	19%
\$801 and above	12%	14.5%	17%	19%	20%

611.27 FINANCING OFFICES OF DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER.

Subd. 15. **Costs of transcripts.** In appeal cases and postconviction cases where the appellate public defender's office does not have sufficient funds to pay for transcripts and other necessary expenses because it has spent or committed all of the transcript funds in its annual budget, the state public defender may forward to the commissioner of management and budget all billings for transcripts and other necessary expenses. The commissioner shall pay for these transcripts and other necessary expenses from county program aid retained by the commissioner of revenue for that purpose under section 477A.0124, subdivision 1, clause (4), or 477A.03, subdivision 2b, paragraph (a).