

are hereby appropriated and pledged to the payment of the interest and principal of the certificates of indebtedness issued pursuant to the provisions of this act.

Approved April 24, 1953.

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CHAPTER 731—H. F. No. 1254

*An act relating to highway traffic regulation; providing a limitation on the total length of a combination of vehicles including a mobile home; amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 169.81, Subdivision 3.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 169.81, Subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Length of combination.** No combination of vehicles coupled together unladen or with load, *including truck trailers and semi-trailers*, shall consist of more than two units and no such combination of vehicles shall exceed a total length of 45 feet, provided that this limitation shall not apply to the transportation of telegraph poles, telephone poles, electric light and power poles or piling, and subject to the following further exceptions: Said length limitations shall not apply to (a) vehicles when transporting pipe, or other objects by a public utility when required for emergency or repair of public service facilities or when operated under special permits as provided in this *subdivision*, but in respect to night transportation every such vehicle and the load thereon shall be equipped with a sufficient number of clearance lamps and marker lamps on both sides and upon the extreme ends of any projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of such load; (b) *house trailers or mobile homes when coupled with a motor vehicle but such combination shall not exceed 55 feet in length. The state, as to state trunk highways, and any city, village, borough or town, as to roads or streets located therein, may issue permits authorizing the transportation of combinations of vehicles exceeding the limitations herein contained over highways, roads or streets within their boundaries.*

Approved April 24, 1953.

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CHAPTER 732—H. F. No. 1322

[Coded in Part]

*An act relating to charges for care and treatment by the*

*state of mental patients, and the liability of patients, relatives of patients, and counties for such charges; amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Sections 526.05, 526.06 and 526.01, and repealing Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 246.31, Subdivision 4, as amended.*

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

**Section 1. [246.47] Voluntary inmates of state hospitals for mentally ill; care, treatment. Subdivision 1.**

*A person who voluntarily or upon commitment enters a state hospital for the mentally ill as a patient or inmate shall pay for the care and treatment he receives while there on the basis set forth in subdivisions two, three and four of this section.*

*Subd. 2. The daily cost of care and treatment in the receiving unit shall be in an amount comparable to that charged by the University hospitals for care and treatment of other types of illnesses, plus special hospital and clinical charges similar to such charges at the University hospital, all to be determined and established from time to time by the director of the division of public institutions.*

*Voluntary patients may be admitted to a receiving unit if they pay such charges or if responsible relatives of the patient guarantee such payment. If a voluntary patient is unable to pay such charges in full, or to secure a guarantee of their payment by a responsible relative, the patient shall be examined forthwith by a staff physician to determine whether or not the patient's case is an emergency, wherein danger to the public or damage to the patient would result from delay in hospitalization and treatment. If no emergency is found to exist the patient shall not be retained in the hospital. If an emergency is found to exist the patient shall be retained, and a guarantee of payment by the county welfare board of the patient's residence must immediately be sought. If such guarantee is not received within ten days from the date the patient entered the hospital, the superintendent of the hospital, or a staff member designated by him, shall either institute proceedings for the commitment of such patient or release the patient.*

*The liability of the county of such committed patient's residence for the payment of such expenses shall arise as of the date of the admission of the patient in the receiving unit and for a maximum of 30 days; thereafter the county welfare board shall be charged on the basis provided in subdivisions 3 and 4. The county shall be billed for all of said charges, and shall pay to the state all money collected by the county from the patient or relatives of the patient who are responsible for his care plus one-half of the remaining uncollected balance.*

*Subd. 3. For care and treatment in a state mental hospital other than in a receiving unit the monthly charge for any patient under 65 years of age at the time of admission shall be an amount equal to the average monthly per capita cost of maintaining all persons in all state hospitals for the mentally ill in this state for the preceding fiscal year, as determined annually by the director of the division of public institutions.*

*Subject to the approval of the director of public institutions, voluntary patients under 65 years of age may be admitted to a mental hospital, except in a receiving unit, if each such patient pays such charges, plus hospital and clinic charges, or if responsible relatives of the patient guarantee such payment. If such voluntary patient is unable to pay such charges in full, or to secure a guarantee of their payment by a responsible relative, a guarantee of payment by the county welfare board of the patient's residence must immediately be sought, and if not received within 10 days from the date the patient entered the hospital, the superintendent of the hospital or a staff member designated by him shall either commence proceedings for the committment of the patient or release the patient.*

*The liability of the county of residence of any voluntary patient who is under 65 years of age at the time of his admission, for the payment of such expenses shall arise as of the date of admission of the patient in the hospital. The county welfare board shall be billed for all of said charges and shall pay to the state all money collected by the county from the patient or relatives of the patient who are responsible for his care plus one-half of the remaining uncollected balance.*

*Committed patients, under 65 years of age at the time of commitment admitted to a mental hospital, except in a receiving unit, or relatives responsible for their care, shall pay the full per capita per month cost to the director of the division of public institutions, or so much thereof as the director shall determine the patient or his responsible relatives are able to pay. If the director determines that the patient or his responsible relatives are unable to pay one-half or more of the per capita per month cost, the county welfare board of the patient's legal residence shall be billed for one-half of such cost. The county shall thereupon collect from the patient or responsible relatives such portion of the amount billed as their ability to pay may warrant, and the county welfare board shall pay to the director one-fourth of the total amount billed after subtracting the amount of collections made by the county welfare board and remitted to the director.*

*Subd. 4. For care and treatment in a state mental hospital other than in a receiving unit, the charge for any patient 65 years of age or older at the time of admission, shall be an amount per month equal to the county's share of the average monthly payments for residents of the county in which the patient resides for the care of patients supported in nursing homes through the old age assistance program, which monthly amount is to be determined from time to time by the director of the division of social welfare.*

*Voluntary or committed patients who are 65 years of age or older when admitted to a state mental hospital or relative responsible for their care, except in a receiving unit shall pay such cost, so determined, or so much thereof as the director shall determine the patient or his responsible relatives are able to pay. If the director determines that the patient or his responsible relatives are unable to pay one-half or more of said amount, the county welfare board of the patient's legal residence shall be billed for one-half of such amount. The county shall pay to the director, an amount equal to the county's share of the average county nursing home charge rate for that county determined by the director of social welfare plus one-half of such amount as the county may recover on an ability to pay basis from the patient or his responsible relative.*

*Subd. 5. Mental patients who are receiving care and treatment from the state outside of hospitals, or their responsible relatives, shall pay the full cost of service received, to be determined by the director of the division of public institutions, or so much thereof as the director shall determine the patient or his responsible relatives are able to pay, which in no event shall be less than 50 cents for each succeeding visit after the first visit. If such out patients or their responsible relatives are unable to pay any more than said 50 cents for visits following the first visit, the county of the patient's legal settlement shall pay \$5 to cover the cost of the first visit and examination.*

*Subd. 6. The words "patient's residence" or "patient's legal residence", as herein used means the patient's legal settlement as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 256.19, Subdivision 1.*

**Sec. 2. [246.48] Cost, collection. Subdivision 1.** *The duty and authority to make all collections due the state under the provisions of this act is hereby given to and vested in the director of the division of public institutions and the director of social welfare, in cooperation with the director of public institutions, shall promulgate the necessary rules and*

*regulations to govern the collections provided for in this act by the county welfare boards.*

*Subd. 2. The attorney general and county attorneys shall furnish to the director and county welfare boards any legal assistance necessary to enforce such collections.*

*Subd. 3. The county welfare boards may retain ten percent of all amounts collected under this act from the patients, person's estate or responsible relatives to assist such board in defraying the costs of administering the collections and investigations.*

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 526.05, is amended to read:

**526.05 Director of public institutions, investigatory powers.** The director of public institutions shall have the power to make investigation as to the property and estate of persons charged with liability for the cost and expense of maintenance of insane persons in state institutions and shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, take testimony under oath, and examine any public records relating to the estate of an inmate or relative liable for his support. The director of public institutions shall determine whether such relative shall be required to pay for the support of such inmates or whether such charges shall be made against the estate of such an inmate. An order shall be issued to the persons who are determined liable for such payments requiring them to pay monthly, quarterly, or otherwise as may be determined by the director. The director of public institutions shall make all reasonable and proper efforts to collect such amounts, and *shall* institute civil action in the name of the State of Minnesota to recover, the amount due with interest. All money so received shall be paid to the state treasurer and placed in the general revenue fund and a separate account kept thereof. The director may, if he finds it necessary, appoint one or more competent persons to act under his direction to assist in the carrying into effect the provisions of *this act* and the salaries and necessary expenses of such agents and other necessary expenses incident to carrying into effect the provisions of those sections shall be paid upon the order of the director of public institutions out of the moneys received or collected under the provisions of those sections.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 526.06, is amended to read:

**526.06 Aggrieved persons, right of appeal.** Any person or party feeling aggrieved by any order or determination of the director of public institutions under the provision of *this act* may appeal therefrom to the district court of the county in

which the person or party resides, but upon such appeal where any order or determination of the director of public institutions made under the provision of *this act* be brought in question such order shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated. Such appeal shall be taken within 30 days after service of notice of the filing of the order or determination of the director appealed from. Such appeal may be taken by serving a notice thereof upon the director of public institutions and upon filing such notice, with proof of service thereof, in the office of the clerk of the district court of the proper county within ten days after service thereof, the court shall be deemed to have jurisdiction of the appeal and thereafter such proceedings shall be had as in other civil actions triable in the court. On such appeal the court shall have the power to order pleadings to be filed and make any other order necessary to the proper procedure and determination of the appeal. *The order of the director determining the extent of the liability of persons liable for payments for support of patients in state mental hospitals shall be conclusive unless appealed from as herein provided.*

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 246.31, Subdivision 4, as amended by Laws 1951, Chapter 173, Section 1, is hereby repealed.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 526.01, is amended to read:

**526.01 Insane persons' support.** Subdivision 1. For the purpose of defraying expenses and costs of maintenance of any inmate in a state asylum, detention hospital or hospital for the insane, the State of Minnesota shall have a valid claim for reimbursement for all money paid and expenses incurred by the state for such maintenance; (1) against the property or estate of such person so maintained, (2) against the relatives of such person in the following order: spouse, children, and parents; provided, that if the director of public institutions shall determine that the property or estate of any such insane person is not sufficient to more than care for and maintain the wife and minor children of such inmate, or that the means and property of the classes of persons herein secondarily charged with the liability and costs of the maintenance of such insane person in these institutions, is not more than sufficient to properly provide for themselves and those otherwise dependent upon them, the director of public institutions shall relieve the estate of such insane person and the relatives of such insane person from a portion of all of such charge or liability as he, in his judgment and upon investigation, may deem just and proper.

Subd. 2. In case of increase or decrease in the estate of such insane person, or in the estates of those persons herein secondarily liable for the cost of the maintenance of an insane person in such institutions, or in case of the death of such persons, or either of them, the director of public institutions is hereby authorized to modify or cancel his previous order made in relation thereto, and from time to time make such other and further order with reference thereto as it may seem just and proper.

Subd. 3. In all cases under the provisions of sections 526.01 to 526.07, the property which, under the laws of this state, is exempt from attachment or sale on any final process issued from any court, shall be exempt also as to the estates and persons charged with or upon whom any liability is imposed under the provision of those sections.

Sec. 7. [246.49] **Limitation on application.** *None of the charges or collection responsibility imposed upon county welfare boards by this act shall apply to any commitments that were made prior to July 1, 1947.*

Sec. 8. *This act shall become effective January 1, 1954.*

Approved April 24, 1953.

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CHAPTER 733—H. F. No. 1353

[Not Coded]

*An act relating to a classification, salary and tenure system for county employees in all counties now or hereafter having a population of 550,000 or more; fixing salaries and sums to be appropriated therefor; and amending Laws 1945, Chapter 607, as amended, by adding a section.*

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

Section 1. Laws 1945, Chapter 607, as amended by Laws 1947, Chapter 455, and Laws 1951, Chapter 636, is amended by adding the following section:

Sec. 12. **Minimum salaries, classifications.** *Notwithstanding any of the provisions of section 4, as now existing or hereafter amended, the minimum annual salaries and the classification of the employees in the sheriff's office in such county shall be as follows:*