

naming each. This information shall be furnished to the *commissioner of public welfare* by each institution, with such other obtainable facts as he may from time to time require. The chief executive officer of each such institution, within ten days after the commitment or entrance thereto of a person, patient, inmate, or convict, shall cause a true copy of his entrance record to be forwarded to the *commissioner of public welfare*. When a patient or inmate leaves, is discharged or transferred, or dies in any institution, the chief executive officer, or other person in charge shall inform the *commissioner of public welfare* within ten days thereafter on forms by him furnished.

The commissioner of public welfare may authorize the superintendent of any state institution for the mentally ill, mentally retarded or epileptic, to release to public or private medical personnel, hospitals, clinics, county welfare boards or other specifically designated interested persons or agencies any information regarding any patient thereat if, in the opinion of the commissioner, it will be for the benefit of the patient.

Approved April 6, 1957.

CHAPTER 320—H. F. No. 133

An act relating to eligibility requirements for old age assistance; amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Sections 256.16, as amended, 256.18, 256.19, Subdivision 2, as amended, 256.20, and 256.26, Subdivision 11, as amended.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 256.16, as amended by Laws 1955, Chapter 527, is amended to read:

256.16 Applicants, requirements to obtain aid. Old age assistance may be granted to an applicant who:

- (1) Has attained the age of 65 years;
- (2) Has resided in the state for one year immediately preceding the application for old age assistance;
- (3) Is not, because of physical or mental condition, in need of continued institutional care and such care is reasonably available to him.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 256.18 is amended to read:

256.18 Pensioners, disqualification. No old age assistance shall be paid a person:

(1) While or during the time he is an inmate of, and receives gratuitously all the necessities of life from any public institution maintained by the United States, or any state or any of the political subdivisions of a state; while he is a patient in a tuberculosis or mental institution; or while he is a patient in a medical institution as a result of diagnosis of tuberculosis or psychosis; provided, however, that part or all of any old age assistance may be paid to patients of public or private medical institutions other than those herein excluded, subject to rules and regulations made by the state agency;

(2) If the net value of his property or the net value of the combined property of husband and wife exceeds \$7,500; or if the net value of his assets convertible into cash exceeds \$300 or the combined convertible assets of husband and wife exceed \$450. The county agency in its discretion may permit eligibility of an applicant having liquid assets in excess of this amount when the liquidation of the assets would cause undue loss. Household goods and furniture in use in the home, wearing apparel, insurance policies the cash surrender value of which does not exceed \$500 per person, personal property used as a regular abode by the applicant or recipient, and a lot in the burial ground may be owned in addition to the property limitation;

(3) Who has, within *five* years prior to the date of his application for assistance, deprived himself directly or indirectly of any property for the purpose of qualifying for old age assistance;

(4) Whose spouse, living with the person, has made an assignment or transfer directly or indirectly of any property for the purpose of qualifying either person for old age assistance under sections 256.11 to 256.43;

(5) Who is receiving aid to the blind, aid to dependent children or aid to the permanently and totally disabled.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 256.19, Subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 1955, Chapter 474, Section 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Application.** An applicant for old age assistance shall file his application in writing with the county agency of the county in which he *is residing*, in such manner and form as shall be prescribed by the state agency.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 256.20 is amended to read:

256.20 Investigations; determination; renewal of application. *Subdivision 1.* The county agency shall promptly make or cause to be made such investigation as it may deem

necessary; the object of such investigation shall be to ascertain the facts supporting the application made under sections 256.11 to 256.43 and such other information as may be required by the rules of the state agency. Upon the completion of such investigation, the county agency shall promptly decide upon the application, fix the amount of old age assistance, if any, and issue to each applicant to whom old age assistance is allowed, a certificate stating the date upon which old age assistance payments shall commence and the amount of each installment, which shall be paid monthly.

Subd. 2. If upon the investigation the county agency shall decide that the application was not filed in the county from which the applicant is entitled to receive assistance under section 256.19, Subdivision 1, it shall transfer the application and all records of its investigation to the county decided to be responsible for the payment of assistance. Thereupon the latter county shall proceed in the same manner as though the application had been originally filed with it. If, after prompt investigation, the agency of the county to which the application is transferred decides that county is not responsible for the payment of assistance, it shall transmit to the state agency the original application together with such information and records as the state agency shall require. The state agency shall make such investigation as it deems necessary and shall make an order determining the county responsible for payment and referring the application to such county for appropriate action. A copy of the order of the state agency shall be mailed to the county found responsible and to the applicant. The order shall be binding and shall be complied with unless reversed on appeal and shall be complied with pending any appeal. Any order of the state agency hereunder may be appealed in the manner provided by section 256.21, subdivision 2.

Approved April 6, 1957.

CHAPTER 321—H. F. No. 413

An act relating to medical and hospital benefits for certain public employees; amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 471.61, Subdivision 1, as amended by Laws 1955, Chapter 193, Section 1, and adding new provisions.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 471.61, Subdivision 1, as amended by Laws 1955, Chapter 193, Section 1, is amended to read: