

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Sections 1 to 8 are effective June 1, 1987.

Approved May 28, 1987

CHAPTER 270—H.F.No. 591

An act relating to human services; authorizing the commissioner to make direct payments to shelter facilities; allowing facilities providing shelter services to women and children to appeal the denial of general assistance payments; amending Minnesota Statutes 1986, sections 256.01, subdivision 2; and 256D.05, by adding a subdivision.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 256.01, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **SPECIFIC POWERS.** Subject to the provisions of section 241.021, subdivision 2, the commissioner of human services shall:

(1) Administer and supervise all forms of public assistance provided for by state law and other welfare activities or services as are vested in the commissioner.

(2) Administer and supervise all child welfare activities; promote the enforcement of laws protecting handicapped, dependent, neglected and delinquent children, and children born to mothers who were not married to the children's fathers at the times of the conception nor at the births of the children; license and supervise child-caring and child-placing agencies and institutions; supervise the care of children in boarding and foster homes or in private institutions; and generally perform all functions relating to the field of child welfare now vested in the state board of control.

(3) Administer and supervise all noninstitutional service to handicapped persons, including those who are visually impaired, hearing impaired, or physically impaired or otherwise handicapped. The commissioner may provide and contract for the care and treatment of qualified indigent children in facilities other than those located and available at state hospitals when it is not feasible to provide the service in state hospitals.

(4) Assist and actively cooperate with other departments, agencies and institutions, local, state, and federal, by performing services in conformity with the purposes of Laws 1939, chapter 431.

(5) Act as the agent of and cooperate with the federal government in matters of mutual concern relative to and in conformity with the provisions of Laws

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1939, chapter 431, including the administration of any federal funds granted to the state to aid in the performance of any functions of the commissioner as specified in Laws 1939, chapter 431, and including the promulgation of rules making uniformly available medical care benefits to all recipients of public assistance, at such times as the federal government increases its participation in assistance expenditures for medical care to recipients of public assistance, the cost thereof to be borne in the same proportion as are grants of aid to said recipients.

(6) Establish and maintain any administrative units reasonably necessary for the performance of administrative functions common to all divisions of the department.

(7) Administer and supervise any additional welfare activities and services as are vested by law in the department.

(8) The commissioner is designated as guardian of both the estate and the person of all the wards of the state of Minnesota, whether by operation of law or by an order of court, without any further act or proceeding whatever, except as to persons committed as mentally retarded.

(9) Act as coordinating referral and informational center on requests for service for newly arrived immigrants coming to Minnesota.

(10) The specific enumeration of powers and duties as hereinabove set forth shall in no way be construed to be a limitation upon the general transfer of powers herein contained.

(11) Establish county, regional, or statewide schedules of maximum fees and charges which may be paid by local agencies for medical, dental, surgical, hospital, nursing and nursing home care and medicine and medical supplies under all programs of medical care provided by the state and for congregate living care under the income maintenance programs.

(12) Have the authority to conduct and administer experimental projects to test methods and procedures of administering assistance and services to recipients or potential recipients of public welfare. To carry out such experimental projects, it is further provided that the commissioner of human services is authorized to waive the enforcement of existing specific statutory program requirements, rules, and standards in one or more counties. The order establishing the waiver shall provide alternative methods and procedures of administration, shall not be in conflict with the basic purposes, coverage, or benefits provided by law, and in no event shall the duration of a project exceed two years. It is further provided that no order establishing an experimental project as authorized by the provisions of this section shall become effective until the following conditions have been met:

(a) The proposed comprehensive plan including estimated project costs and the proposed order establishing the waiver shall be filed with the secretary of the

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senate and chief clerk of the house of representatives at least 60 days prior to its effective date.

(b) The secretary of health, education, and welfare of the United States has agreed, for the same project, to waive state plan requirements relative to state-wide uniformity.

(c) A comprehensive plan, including estimated project costs, shall be approved by the legislative advisory commission and filed with the commissioner of administration.

(13) In accordance with federal requirements establish procedures to be followed by local welfare boards in creating citizen advisory committees, including procedures for selection of committee members.

(14) Allocate federal fiscal disallowances or sanctions which are based on quality control error rates for the aid to families with dependent children, medical assistance, or food stamp program in the following manner:

(a) One-half of the total amount of the disallowance shall be borne by the county boards responsible for administering the programs and shall be shared by each county board in the same proportion as that county's expenditures for the sanctioned program are to the total of all counties' expenditures for that program. Each county shall pay its share of the disallowance to the state of Minnesota. When a county fails to pay the amount due hereunder, the commissioner may deduct the amount from reimbursement otherwise due the county, or the attorney general, upon the request of the commissioner, may institute civil action to recover the amount due.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), if the disallowance results from knowing noncompliance by one or more counties with a specific program instruction, and that knowing noncompliance is a matter of official county board record, the commissioner may require payment or recover from the county or counties, in the manner prescribed in paragraph (a), an amount equal to the portion of the total disallowance which resulted from the noncompliance, and may distribute the balance of the disallowance according to paragraph (a).

(15) Develop and implement special projects that maximize reimbursements and result in the recovery of money to the state. For the purpose of recovering state money, the commissioner may enter into contracts with third parties. Any recoveries that result from projects or contracts entered into under this paragraph shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to a special account until the balance in the account reaches \$400,000. When the balance in the account exceeds \$400,000, the excess shall be transferred and credited to the general fund. All money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes of this paragraph.

(16) Have the authority to make direct payments to facilities providing

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shelter to women and their children pursuant to section 256D.05, subdivision 3. Upon the written request of a shelter facility that has been denied payments under section 256.05, subdivision 3, the commissioner shall review all relevant evidence and make a determination within 30 days of the request for review regarding issuance of direct payments to the shelter facility. Failure to act within 30 days shall be considered a determination not to issue direct payments.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 256D.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 3a. SHELTER FACILITY'S RIGHT TO APPEAL. A facility providing shelter for women and their children may appeal a decision of a local agency arising from a request for payment pursuant to section 256D.05, subdivision 3. To appeal, the shelter facility shall submit a written appeal request within 30 days of receiving notice of the commissioner's refusal to issue payment pursuant to section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (16). The appeal shall be heard by an administrative law judge according to sections 14.48 to 14.62, except that the report of the administrative law judge is binding on all parties. Within 15 days of receipt of a written appeal request from a shelter facility, the local agency shall file a request for assignment of a judge together with a notice of and order for hearing proposed to be issued. The record in the contested case proceeding shall not include any evidence, including records and documents, developed by the commissioner in the commissioner's review, pursuant to section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (16).

Approved May 28, 1987

CHAPTER 271—H.F.No. 601

An act relating to natural resources; providing that money recovered by the state for forest fire fighting expenses be restored to the fund of origination; increasing the amount that may be paid for tips related to forest fire crimes; clarifying provisions relating to the burden of proof and evidence of negligence; amending Minnesota Statutes 1986, sections 88.17, subdivision 2; 88.75, subdivision 1; and 88.76.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1986, section 88.17, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. In any prosecution under sections 88.03 to 88.22 for unlawfully starting or setting or having or permitting the continuation or spread of any fire or backfire, proof upon the part of the prosecution that such fire or backfire originated upon, or was permitted to burn upon, or that it spread from, lands or premises occupied by the person charged with the offense, and that this person had knowledge of the fire and made no effort to put it out, shall be prima facie evidence of guilt. ~~The burden of proof as to any matter in refutation of this~~

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