

Presented to the governor April 14, 1992

Signed by the governor April 17, 1992, 9:54 a.m.

CHAPTER 470—S.F.No. 1805

An act relating to human services; requiring reporting of legally blind persons to Minnesota state services for the blind and visually handicapped; modifying the duties of the commissioner of jobs and training; removing a council's expiration date; amending Minnesota Statutes 1990, sections 248.07, subdivisions 1 and 5; and 248.10, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 248.

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

Section 1. [248.011] REPORTING OF NEWLY BLINDED INDIVIDUAL.

Subdivision 1. DUTY TO REPORT. Whenever an ophthalmologist or optometrist makes an initial diagnosis of legal blindness as defined in section 256D.35, subdivision 4a, the ophthalmologist or optometrist shall advise the client that services are available through Minnesota state services for the blind and visually handicapped. After obtaining client consent, the ophthalmologist or optometrist shall report the name of the legally blind client to Minnesota state services for the blind and visually handicapped. The report must be filed with Minnesota state services for the blind and visually handicapped within 30 days following a diagnosis of legal blindness after obtaining client consent.

Subd. 2. DUTIES OF MINNESOTA STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY HANDICAPPED. Upon receipt of the name of a legally blind individual, Minnesota state services for the blind and visually handicapped shall contact the newly blind individual within 30 days and provide a complete summary of available services to the blind individual, in media accessible to the individual.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 248.07, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **COOPERATION.** It shall be the duty of the commissioner of jobs and training, referred to in this section and sections 248.10 and 248.11 as the commissioner, to develop and administer programs serving the needs of blind and visually handicapped persons and to cooperate with state and local boards and agencies both public and private. The commissioner shall create a distinct organizational unit to be known as the division of services for the blind and visually handicapped, separate from the vocational rehabilitation unit and with its own activity budget, within the department of jobs and training to provide and coordinate services to the blind.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 248.07, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. AIDS. The commissioner shall further be empowered to aid the blind: (1) By home instruction and training; (2) by assisting them in securing tools, appliances, and supplies; (3) by any other practicable means of improving their social, economic, or educational condition; ~~and~~ (4) by providing to eligible persons, or purchasing for sale at cost plus handling charges, special materials and supplies needed by blind or visually handicapped persons that are difficult to obtain elsewhere; and (5) by promoting literacy and access to print materials through production of alternative reading formats such as Braille, audio tapes, radio signals, newspaper reading services, and other services originating from the division's communication center. Equipment may be leased or sold under written rehabilitation plans at cost plus handling charges to persons who wish to lease or purchase them. Receipts under this subdivision, as well as gifts to aid the blind, are subject to section 268.0121, subdivision 5.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1990, section 248.10, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **REMOVAL; VACANCIES; EXPIRATION.** The compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the council are as provided in section 15.0575. ~~The council expires on June 30, 1993.~~

Presented to the governor April 14, 1992

Signed by the governor April 17, 1992, 9:50 a.m.

CHAPTER 471—S.F.No. 2547

An act relating to retirement; Minneapolis police relief association; recodifying the local laws applicable to the local relief association; amending Laws 1980, chapter 607, article XV, sections 8, 9, as amended, and 10; Laws 1989, chapter 319, article 19, sections 6 and 7, subdivisions 1 and 4, as amended; and Laws 1990, chapter 589, article 1, section 6; repealing Minnesota Statutes 1957, sections 423.71; 423.715; 423.72; 423.725; 423.73; 423.735; 423.74; 423.745; 423.75; 423.755; 423.76; 423.765; 423.77; 423.775; Special Laws 1891, chapter 143; Laws 1943, chapter 280; Laws 1949, chapter 406; Laws 1953, chapter 127; Laws 1957, chapters 721 and 939; Laws 1959, chapters 428 and 662; Laws 1961, chapter 532; Laws 1963, chapter 315; Laws 1965, chapters 493, 520, and 534; Laws 1967, chapters 820 and 825; Laws 1969, chapters 258 and 560; Laws 1973, chapters 272 and 309; Laws 1975, chapter 428; Laws 1980, chapter 607, article XV, section 21; Laws 1983, chapter 88; Laws 1987, chapters 322, sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8; and 372, article 2, sections 2, 3, 4, 6, and 15; Laws 1988, chapters 572, sections 3, 5, and 6; and 574, sections 2, 4, and 5; Laws 1990, chapter 589, article 1, section 4; and Laws 1991, chapter 90.

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

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.