

both current support and court-ordered paybacks of a child support debt or arrearage, the court may order interest on the remaining debt or arrearage to stop accruing. Timely payments are those made in the month in which they are due. If, after that time, the obligor fails to make complete and timely payments of both current support and court-ordered paybacks of child support debt or arrearage, the public authority or the obligee may move the court for the reinstatement of interest as of the month in which the obligor ceased making complete and timely payments.

The court shall provide copies of all orders issued under this section to the public authority. The commissioner of human services shall prepare and make available to the court and the parties forms to be submitted by the parties in support of a motion under this paragraph.

Presented to the governor March 26, 1996

Signed by the governor March 28, 1996, 10:20 a.m.

CHAPTER 392—H.F.No. 2127

An act relating to human services; amending Minnesota Statutes 1994, sections 256C.23; 256C.24, as amended; 256C.25, subdivision 1; 256C.26; and 256C.28, as amended; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256C; repealing Minnesota Statutes 1994, sections 256C.22; and 256C.27.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1994, section 256C.23, is amended to read:

256C.23 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of sections 256C.21 to 256C.27 the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings given them, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Subd. 2. "Deaf" means a hearing loss of such severity that the individual must depend primarily on visual communication such as writing, lip reading, manual communication, and gestures.

Subd. 2a. "Hard-of-hearing" means a hearing loss resulting in a functional loss of hearing, but not to the extent that the individual must depend primarily upon visual communication.

Subd. 2b. "Deaf-blind" means any combination of vision and hearing loss which interferes with acquiring information from the environment to the extent that compensatory strategies and skills are necessary to access that or other information.

Subd. 3. "Regional service center" means a facility designed to provide an entry point for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons of that region in need of education, employment, social, human, or other services.

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Subd. 4. "Human services" means correctional, educational, occupational, health, mental health, financial and social services.

Subd. 5. "Human services agency" means a state, regional or local agency that provides human services.

Sec. 2. [256C.233] DUTIES OF STATE AGENCIES.

Subdivision 1. **DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING DIVISION.** The commissioners of human services, children, families, and learning, and economic security shall create a distinct and separate organizational unit to be known as the deaf and hard-of-hearing services division to address the developmental, social, educational, and occupational needs of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons through a statewide network of collaborative services and by coordinating the promulgation of public policies, regulations, legislation, and programs affecting deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons. An interdepartmental management team shall supervise the activities of the deaf and hard-of-hearing services division. The commissioner of human services shall coordinate the work of the interagency management team and receive legislative appropriations for the division.

Subd. 2. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The deaf and hard-of-hearing services division shall:

(1) establish and maintain a statewide network of regional service centers for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing Minnesotans;

(2) assist the departments of human services, children, families, and learning, and economic security to coordinate the promulgation and implementation of public policies, regulations, legislation, programs, and services affecting deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons; and

(3) provide a coordinated system of statewide interpreter referral services.

Subd. 3. **HEALTH.** The commissioner of health shall establish standards for screening for hearing loss with special emphasis on screening of persons from birth through school age and persons over age 65.

Subd. 4. **STATE COMMISSIONERS.** The commissioners of all state agencies shall consult with the deaf and hard-of-hearing services division concerning the promulgation of public policies, regulations, and programs necessary to address the needs of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing Minnesotans. Each state agency shall consult with the deaf and hard-of-hearing services division concerning the need to forward legislative initiatives to the governor to address the concerns of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing Minnesotans.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1994, section 256C.24, as amended by Laws 1995, chapter 190, section 14, is amended to read:

256C.24 **REGIONAL SERVICE CENTERS.**

Subdivision 1. **LOCATION.** The commissioner of human deaf and hard-of-hearing services division shall establish up to eight regional service centers for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons. The centers shall be distributed regionally to provide access for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons in all parts of the state. The center shall main-

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tain a current registry of those persons having or suspected of having a hearing loss who live in that region. A special task of the registry is to assure that referrals and follow-up services are completed with respect to persons in the register.

Subd. 2. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** ~~The~~ Each regional service center shall:

(a) serve as ~~the~~ a central entry point for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons in need of human services and make referrals to the services needed;

(b) employ staff trained to work with deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons;

(c) provide to all deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons access to interpret services which are necessary to help them obtain human services;

(d) implement a plan to provide loan loaned equipment and resource materials to deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons; and

(e) cooperate with responsible departments and administrative authorities to provide access for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons to services provided by state, county, and regional agencies;

(f) collaborate with the resource center for the deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, other divisions of the department of children, families, and learning, and local school districts to develop and deliver programs and services for families with deaf, deaf-blind, or hard-of-hearing children and to support school personnel serving these children;

(g) when possible, provide training to the social service or income maintenance staff employed by counties or by organizations with whom counties contract for services to ensure that communication barriers which prevent deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons from using services are removed;

(h) when possible, provide training to state and regional human service agencies regarding program access for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons; and

(i) assess the ongoing need and supply of services for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons in all parts of the state and cooperate with public and private service providers to develop these services.

Subd. 3. **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** ~~The commissioner of human~~ director of the deaf and hard-of-hearing services division shall appoint an advisory committee of up to nine persons for each regional service area. Members shall include persons who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing, persons who are communication-impaired, parents of children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, parents of communication-impaired children, and representatives of county and regional human services, including representatives of private service providers. At least 50 percent of the members must be deaf or deaf-blind or hard-of-hearing or communication-impaired. Committee members shall serve for a three-year term and shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. The commissioner of human services Each advisory committee shall designate one member as elect a chair. The commissioner of human director of the deaf and hard-of-hearing services division shall assign staff to serve as ex officio nonvoting members of the committee. Members shall not receive a per diem. Otherwise, the compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the committee shall be as provided in section 15.0575.

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Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 1994, section 256C.25, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **ESTABLISHMENT.** ~~The commissioner of human deaf and hard-of-hearing services division shall maintain and coordinate statewide interpreter referral services for use by any public or private agency or individual in the state. Within the seven-county metro area, the commissioner division shall contract for these services; outside the metro area, the commissioner division shall directly coordinate these services but may contract with an appropriate agency to provide this service. The commissioner division may collect a \$3 fee per referral for interpreter referral services and the actual costs of interpreter services provided by department staff. Fees and payments collected shall be deposited in the general fund. The \$3 referral fee shall not be collected from state agencies or local units of government or deaf or hard-of-hearing consumers or interpreters.~~

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 1994, section 256C.26, is amended to read:

256C.26 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

~~The commissioner of economic security shall develop a plan to deal with the underemployment of deaf and hard of hearing persons. The plan shall provide for training regarding the nature of hearing handicaps for department staff who consult with prospective employers or who provide job placement services work with the deaf and hard-of-hearing services division to develop and implement a plan to deal with the underemployment of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons.~~

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 1994, section 256C.28, as amended by Laws 1995, First Special Session chapter 3, article 16, section 13, is amended to read:

256C.28 COMMISSION SERVING DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING PEOPLE.

Subdivision 1. **MEMBERSHIP.** The Minnesota commission serving deaf and hard-of-hearing people consists of seven members appointed at large and one member from each advisory committee established under section 256C.24, subdivision 3. At least 50 percent of the members must be deaf or deaf-blind or hard of hearing. Members shall include persons who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, parents of children who are deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing, and representatives of county and regional human services, including representatives of private service providers. Commission members are appointed by the ~~commissioner of human services~~ governor for a three-year term and shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. ~~The commissioner of human services commission shall appoint~~ select one member as chair.

Subd. 2. **REMOVAL; VACANCIES.** The compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the commission are as provided in section 15.0575.

Subd. 3. **MISSION.** The commission shall serve as the principal agency of the state to advocate on behalf of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing Minnesotans by working to ensure those persons have equal access to the services, programs, and opportunities available to others.

Subd. 3a. **DUTIES.** The commission shall:

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(1) advise the governor, the legislature, and the commissioners of the departments of human services, children, families, and learning, economic security, and health on the nature of the issues and disabilities confronting deaf and hard of hearing persons in Minnesota assist deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons and parents of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing students in advocating for equal access to services, programs, and opportunities;

(2) advise the governor, the legislature, and the commissioners of the departments of human services, children, families, and learning, economic security, and health on the development of policies, programs, and services affecting deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons, and on the use of appropriate federal and state money;

(3) create a public awareness of the special needs and potential of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons;

(4) provide the governor, the legislature, and the commissioners of the departments of human services, children, families, and learning, economic security, and health with a review of ongoing services, programs, and proposed legislation affecting deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons;

(5) advise the governor, the legislature, and the commissioners of the departments of human services, children, families, and learning, economic security, and health on statutes or rules, and policies necessary to ensure that deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons have equal access to benefits and services provided to individuals in Minnesota;

(6) recommend to the governor, the legislature, and the commissioners of the departments of human services, children, families, and learning, economic security, and health legislation designed to improve the economic and social conditions of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons in Minnesota;

(7) propose solutions to problems of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons in the areas of education, employment, human rights, human services, health, housing, and other related programs;

(8) recommend to the governor and the legislature any needed revisions in the state's affirmative action program and any other steps necessary to eliminate the under-employment or unemployment of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons in the state's work force;

(9) work with other state and federal agencies and organizations to promote economic development for deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing Minnesotans; and

(10) coordinate its efforts with other state and local agencies serving deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons.

Subd. 4. **STAFF.** The commission may appoint, subject to the approval of the governor, an executive director who must be experienced in administrative activities and familiar with the problems and needs of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing persons. The commission may delegate to the executive director any powers and duties under this section that do not require commission approval. The executive director serves in the unclassified service and may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the commission. The executive director shall coordinate the provision of necessary support services to the commission with the state department of human services deaf and hard-of-hearing ser-

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vices division. The executive director may employ and direct staff necessary to carry out commission mandates, policies, activities, and objectives.

Subd. 5. **POWERS.** The commission may contract in its own name. Contracts must be approved by a majority of the members of the commission and executed by the chair and the executive director. The commission may apply for, receive, and expend in its own name grants and gifts of money consistent with the powers and duties specified in this section.

Subd. 6. **REPORT.** ~~The commission shall may prepare and distribute a report to the commissioner, the governor, and the legislature by December 31 of each even-numbered year periodic reports to the state agency commissioners, the governor, and the legislature concerning the activities of the commission and the needs and concerns of deaf, deaf-blind, and hard-of-hearing Minnesotans. The report must summarize the activities of the commission since its prior report, list receipts and expenditures, identify the major problems and issues confronting deaf and hard of hearing persons, make recommendations regarding needed policy and program development on behalf of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Minnesota, and list the specific objectives the commission seeks to attain during the next biennium.~~

Sec. 7. REPEALER.

Minnesota Statutes 1994, sections 256C.22 and 256C.27, are repealed.

Presented to the governor March 26, 1996

Signed by the governor March 28, 1996, 10:08 a.m.

CHAPTER 393—H.F.No. 2818

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CHAPTER 394—H.F.No. 2298

An act relating to government efficiency; extending the effective period of certain exemptions granted by the board of government innovation and cooperation; authorizing multimember school board election districts; amending Minnesota Statutes 1994, sections 122.23, subdivisions 2 and 18; 205A.12, subdivisions 2 and 5; and 465.797, by adding a subdivision.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1994, section 122.23, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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