

**Sec. 2. REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 480.061, is repealed.

Presented to the governor February 17, 1998

Signed by the governor February 19, 1998, 11:50 a.m.

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**CHAPTER 256—H.F.No. 2372**

*An act relating to public contracts; exempting the reconstruction of the Bridges Medical Center in Norman County from competitive bid requirements.*

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

**Section 1. EXEMPTION.**

Because the project for the repair and reconstruction of the damaged Bridges Medical Center in Norman County is emergency construction, that project is exempt from the competitive bid requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 471.345, or other law or charter.

**Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE; NO LOCAL APPROVAL.**

Section 1 is effective the day after its final enactment. Under Minnesota Statutes, section 645.023, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), no local approval is required.

Presented to the governor February 23, 1998

Signed by the governor February 25, 1998, 3:02 p.m.

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**CHAPTER 257—H.F.No. 2550**

*An act relating to health; providing for rural critical access hospitals; amending Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 144.1483.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 144.1483, is amended to read:

**144.1483 RURAL HEALTH INITIATIVES.**

The commissioner of health, through the office of rural health, and consulting as necessary with the commissioner of human services, the commissioner of commerce, the higher education services office, and other state agencies, shall:

(1) develop a detailed plan regarding the feasibility of coordinating rural health care services by organizing individual medical providers and smaller hospitals and clinics into referral networks with larger rural hospitals and clinics that provide a broader array of services;

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