

**CHAPTER 355—S.F.No. 1074**

*An act relating to public employees; providing that public safety dispatchers are essential employees; amending Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 179A.03, subdivision 7.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 179A.03, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEE.** "Essential employee" means firefighters, peace officers subject to licensure under sections 626.84 to 626.855, 911 system and police and fire department public safety dispatchers, guards at correctional facilities, confidential employees, supervisory employees, assistant county attorneys, principals, and assistant principals. However, for state employees, "essential employee" means all employees in law enforcement, health care professionals, correctional guards, professional engineering, and supervisory collective bargaining units, irrespective of severance, and no other employees. For University of Minnesota employees, "essential employee" means all employees in law enforcement, nursing professional and supervisory units, irrespective of severance, and no other employees. "Firefighters" means salaried employees of a fire department whose duties include, directly or indirectly, controlling, extinguishing, preventing, detecting, or investigating fires.

Presented to the governor April 2, 1998

Signed by the governor April 3, 1998, 11:45 a.m.

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**CHAPTER 356—H.F.No. 2673**

*An act relating to public employment; increasing compensation for state employees on leave to serve as certified disaster service volunteers of the American Red Cross; amending Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 43A.185, subdivision 1.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 43A.185, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **LEAVE AUTHORIZED.** A state employee who is a certified disaster service volunteer of the American Red Cross may be granted leave from work with 50 100 percent of pay, not to exceed 15 working days in each year, to participate in specialized disaster relief services for the American Red Cross. The employee must be released from work for this function upon the request of the American Red Cross for the services of that employee, and upon the approval of that employee's appointing authority. The appointing authority shall compensate the employee granted leave under this section at 50 100 percent of the employee's regular rate of pay for those regular hours during which the employee is absent from work. This leave, if granted by the appointing authority, may not affect the employee's vacation leave, pension, compensatory time, personal vacation days, sick leave, earned overtime accumulation, or cause a loss of seniority.

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