

tions, maintain said standards in the care and treatment of the mentally ill.

The director of public institutions shall establish a screening staff or panel of three or more qualified persons to supervise the policies of the various mental hospitals as to both the admission and discharge of patients, to examine the records of all patients admitted, to examine personally all patients who from the records appear to justify a reasonable doubt as to the need of commitment or the need of continued confinement in a mental hospital and to further examine all patients in each mental hospital, (1) by record and (2) by examination of the patient in all instances where the examination of the record indicates reasonable doubt as to the patient's need to continue in a mental institution and report its findings to the director of public institutions.

Approved April 24, 1953.

CHAPTER 725—S. F. No. 1723

An act authorizing the director of social welfare to establish by rule and regulation the establishment of a county medical payments fund; amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 256.12, Subdivision 17, enacted by Chapter 618, Laws of 1951.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 256.12, Subdivision 17, as enacted by Laws 1951, Chapter 618, is hereby amended to read:

Subd. 18. **Vendor of medical care.** "Vendor of medical care," as used in this chapter, shall encompass any person or persons furnishing, within the scope of his respective license, any or all of the following goods or services: medical, surgical, hospital, optical, dental, nursing services, drugs and medical supplies, appliances, laboratory, diagnostic and therapeutic services, nursing home and convalescent care and such other medical services or supplies provided or prescribed by persons authorized by state law to give such services and supplies.

The director of social welfare is hereby authorized to establish by rule and regulation methods for the provision on a prepayment basis, by non-profit hospital and medical service plans of any or all of the supplies or services enumerated in this section or *in lieu thereof may authorize by rule and regulation the establishment of a county medical payments fund within each county. This fund shall be established by a pre-*

payment monthly into the county medical payments fund of an amount equal to the total county average monthly per capita cost of medical and hospital care of all recipients of public assistance except general relief wherever such provision is not in conflict with the social security act enacted by the 74th Congress of the United States, approved August 14, 1935, Public Law No. 271, and any amendments to or supplements thereof, including specifically the "Social Security Act Amendments of 1950," Public Law No. 734, 81st Congress, approved August 28, 1950, and any act of the Congress encompassing the same field, provided that such rules and regulations shall not deprive the recipient of free choice of vendor nor deprive the vendor of payment on a fee for service or supply basis. All claims for goods and services set forth in paragraph (1) of this subdivision shall be paid from moneys in the county medical payments fund which is hereby made available for that purpose. Upon dissolution of said county medical payments fund, any undisbursed balance shall be returned to the same sources and in the same proportion as originally deposited therein.

Approved April 24, 1953.

CHAPTER 726—S. F. No. 1733

[Not Coded]

An act providing for waiving of state's immunity from suit but not conceding a cause of action as to certain claims against the state arising out of the location, construction, reconstruction, improvement, and maintenance of the trunk highway system and appropriating money out of the trunk highway fund, or funds accredited thereto, from the highway patrol fines or other sources therefor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Claims arising out of trunk highway activities, actions authorized. As to the persons, firms, or corporations hereinafter named and for an amount not exceeding that hereinafter set forth, each having submitted to the legislature claims against the State for damages alleged to have arisen out of the location, construction, reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of the trunk highway system prior to the passage of this act, the State hereby waives immunity from suit, but does not concede a cause of action, as to each of such claims as the same are set out in section 6.