

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1967, Section 181.58 is amended to read:

181.58 **Wages; payable to surviving spouse.** For the purposes of this section the word "employer" includes every person, firm, partnership, corporation, the State of Minnesota, all political subdivisions, and all municipal corporations.

If, at the time of the death of any person, his employer is indebted to him for work, labor, or services performed, and no executor or administrator of his estate has been appointed, such employer shall, upon the request of the surviving spouse, forthwith pay this indebtedness, in such an amount as may be due, not exceeding the sum of ~~\$1,000~~ \$3,000, to the surviving spouse. The employer may in the same manner provide for payment to the surviving spouse of accumulated credits under the vacation or overtime plan or system maintained by the employer. The employer shall require proof of claimant's relationship to decedent by affidavit, and require claimant to acknowledge receipt of such payment in writing. Any payments made by the employer pursuant to the provisions of this section shall operate as a full and complete discharge of the employer's indebtedness to the extent of the payment, and no employer shall thereafter be liable therefor to the decedent's estate or the decedent's executor or administrator thereafter appointed. Any amounts so received by a spouse shall be considered in diminution of the allowance to the spouse under section 525.15.

Approved June 4, 1969.

CHAPTER 955—H. F. No. 2179

[Coded]

An act to provide for the appointment of interpreters in various proceedings for persons having hearing, speaking, or other impairments who cannot readily understand or communicate the English language; repealing Minnesota Statutes 1967, Section 253.053.

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

Section 1. **[611.30] Interpreters; appointment.** It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the constitutional rights of deaf persons and of other persons who, because of hearing,

Changes or additions indicated by italics, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

speaking, or other impairment, are unable to readily understand or communicate the English language, cannot be fully protected unless qualified interpreters are available to assist such persons in legal proceedings. It is the intent of this act to provide a procedure for the appointment of such interpreters to avoid injustice and to assist such persons in their own defense.

Sec. 2. **[611.31] Handicapped person.** For the purposes of sections 1 to 6, "handicapped person" means a person who because he is deaf, or because of a hearing or speaking impairment, cannot readily understand or communicate the English language, or cannot understand the proceedings or any charges made against him, or is incapable of presenting or assisting in the presentation of his defense.

Sec. 3. **[611.32] Proceedings where interpreter appointed.** Subdivision 1. **Proceedings and preliminary proceedings involving possible criminal sanctions or confinement.** In any proceeding wherein a handicapped person may be subjected to confinement or criminal sanction, or in any proceeding preliminary thereto, including coroner's inquest, grand jury proceedings, and proceedings relating to mental health commitments, the presiding judicial officer shall appoint a qualified interpreter to assist the handicapped person throughout the proceedings.

Subd. 2. **Proceedings at time of apprehension or arrest.** Upon the apprehension or arrest for an alleged violation of a criminal law and prior to interrogating or taking the statement of a handicapped person, the arresting officer, sheriff, or other law enforcement official shall make available to said person, at the earliest possible time, a qualified interpreter to assist such person throughout such interrogation or taking of a statement.

Sec. 4. **[611.33] Qualified interpreter.** Subdivision 1. No person shall be appointed as a qualified interpreter pursuant to this act unless said person is readily able to communicate with the handicapped person, translate the proceedings for him, and accurately repeat and translate the statements of the handicapped person to the officials before whom the proceeding is taking place.

Subd. 2. Every qualified interpreter appointed pursuant to the provisions of this act, before entering upon his duties as such, shall take an oath that he will, to the best of his skill and judgment, make a true interpretation to the handicapped person being examined of all the proceedings, in a language which said person understands, and that he will repeat the statements, in the English language, of said

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person to the court or other officials before whom the proceeding is taking place.

Subd. 3. The fees and expenses of a qualified interpreter shall be fixed and ordered paid by the presiding official before whom the proceeding is taking place out of the general revenue fund of the county in which the proceeding occurs, or if the proceeding is before an administrative board, commission, or agency pursuant to section 3, subdivision 3 of this act, out of the funds of that body.

Sec. 5. [611.34] **Applicability to all courts.** The provisions of this act shall apply to all courts in this state and political subdivisions thereof.

Sec. 6. **Effective date.** This act is effective with respect to all proceedings taking place on or after July 1, 1969.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 1967, Section 253.053, is repealed.

Approved June 4, 1969.

CHAPTER 956—H. F. No. 2304

[Coded]

An act relating to certain historic sites; providing for their acquisition, administration and control by Minnesota historical society; appropriating money therefor, including money for a grant-in-aid program.

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

Section 1. [138.025] **Minnesota historical society; historic sites.** Subdivision 1. The authority of the department of conservation and its division of parks and recreation, or any successor thereto, to administer and control the historic sites enumerated in this section is withdrawn, and is hereby conferred upon the Minnesota historical society. The society shall exercise the general administration and control of such sites, preserve their historic features, conduct archaeological investigations, establish necessary interpretive centers, and perform such additional duties and services at such sites as may be deemed necessary and beneficial to such sites.

Subd. 2. **Fort Snelling State Historical Park.** In accordance with the terms and provisions of this act the Minnesota historical

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