

son who testified before a review organization or who is a member of it be prevented from testifying as to matters within his knowledge, but a witness cannot be asked about his testimony before a review organization or opinions formed by him as a result of its hearings.

Approved March 27, 1974.

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**CHAPTER 296—S.F.No.3176**  
[Not Coded]

*An act relating to Dakota county; authorizing certain requirements for appointees to the Dakota county planning advisory commission.*

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

**Section 1. DAKOTA COUNTY; PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION.** Notwithstanding provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 394.30, Subdivision 1, to the contrary, the Dakota county board of commissioners may, if it wishes to avail itself of the authority granted by Minnesota Statutes, Sections 394.21 to 394.37, create a planning advisory commission composed of two appointees from each Dakota county commissioner district. Such appointments shall be annual.

**Sec. 2.** This act takes effect when approved by a majority of the board of county commissioners of Dakota county, and upon compliance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 645.021.

Approved March 27, 1974.

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**CHAPTER 297—S.F.No.3208**

*An act relating to the administration of public welfare; amending Minnesota Statutes, 1973 Supplement, Sections 245A.01, Subdivision 1; 245A.05, Subdivision 1; 245A.18, and Laws 1973, Chapter 650, Article XXI, Section 32.*

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

**Section 1.** Minnesota Statutes, 1973 Supplement, Section 245A.01, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

**245A.01 PUBLIC WELFARE; GENERAL ASSISTANCE ACT; DECLARATION OF POLICY; CITATION.** Subdivision 1. The objectives of Laws 1973, Chapter 650, Article 21, Sections 1 to 30 are to provide a sound administrative structure for public assistance programs; to max-

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imize the use of federal funds for public assistance purposes; to provide property tax relief; and to provide an integrated public assistance program for all persons in the state without adequate income or resources to maintain a subsistence reasonably compatible with decency and health.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that persons unable to provide for themselves and not otherwise provided for by law, who meet the eligibility requirements of Laws 1973, Chapter 650, Article 21 and do not refuse suitable employment, shall be entitled to receive such grants of general assistance and such services as may be necessary to maintain a subsistence reasonably compatible with decency and health. The furnishing of such assistance and services is a matter of public concern and a necessity in promoting the public health and welfare.

A principal objective in providing general assistance and services shall be to aid those persons who can be helped to become self-supporting or to attain self-care. To achieve this aim, the commissioner shall establish minimum standards of assistance for general assistance. The minimum standard for cash payments to recipients shall be ~~75~~ as to shelter and utilities, 100 percent ~~of the actual need or state standards therefor, subject to the maximum established for shelter in the aid to the blind, aid to the disabled, and old age assistance programs in December, 1973;~~ and as to other budgetary items, 50 percent, of those established for said items in the federally aided assistance programs; provided, however, that no general assistance payment shall exceed an amount, which when computed for the time period for which it is made, exceeds the equivalent on a weekly basis of 40 times the hourly federal minimum wage prevailing when the payment is made; and provided further that persons receiving general relief on January 1, 1974 shall continue to be eligible therefor aid to the blind, aid to the disabled, and old age assistance programs in December, 1973. In order to maximize the use of federal funds, the commissioner shall promulgate regulations, to the extent permitted by federal law for eligibility for the emergency assistance program, under the terms of Laws 1973, Chapter 650, Article 21 for general assistance. The commissioner shall provide by regulation for the eligibility for general assistance of persons with seasonal income, and may attribute seasonal income to other periods not in excess of one year from receipt by an applicant or recipient. The strengthening and preservation of the family unit shall be a principal consideration in the administration of Laws 1973, Chapter 650, Article 21 and all general assistance policies shall be formulated and administered so as to further this objective.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes, 1973 Supplement, Section 245A.05, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

**245A.05 ELIGIBILITY FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE.** Subdivision 1. **STANDARDS.** Each person or family whose income and resources are less than the standard of assistance established by the commis-

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sioner shall be eligible for and entitled to general assistance; provided that no individual shall be eligible for general assistance if he is eligible for any of the following federally aided assistance programs: emergency assistance, aid to families with dependent children, ~~supplemental security income for the aged, blind, or disabled~~; or any successor to the above.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes, 1973 Supplement, Section 245A.18, is amended to read:

**245A.18 RESIDENCE; COUNTY OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY; DETERMINATION.** Subdivision 1. In determining the county of financial responsibility, in all matters concerning legal settlement of the poor, the definitions and rules of this section shall apply.

Subd. 2. "County of financial responsibility" means (a) the county in which an individual resides; or (b) if an individual is a patient in a hospital, nursing home, or boarding care home, as defined in section 144.50, or is placed in a county as a result of a correctional program or a treatment plan for health, rehabilitation, foster care, child care or training, at the time of making application, and immediately prior thereto resided in another county, then that other county; or (c) the above provisions notwithstanding, if an individual is a recipient of medical assistance, the county from which he is receiving medical assistance.

Subd. 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 2, the county of financial responsibility shall not change as a result of successive placements in one or more counties pursuant to a plan of treatment for health, rehabilitation, foster care, child care or training; nor as a result of placement in any correctional program.

Subd. ~~3-4~~ . If upon ~~the~~ investigation the local agency decides that the application was not filed in the county of financial responsibility as defined by this section, but that the applicant is otherwise eligible for assistance, it shall, while providing assistance to the applicant, transmit a copy of the application, together with the record of any investigation made by it and a copy of its decision, to the state agency, and to the agency of the county which it has decided is the county of financial responsibility. The state agency shall thereupon promptly decide any question of financial responsibility and make an order referring the application to the local agency of the proper county for further action, including reimbursement by such county of any assistance which another county has provided to the applicant in accordance with this subdivision. The state agency may make such investigation as it deems proper before making its decision. It shall prescribe rules and regulations for carrying into effect this subdivision. The order of the state agency shall be binding upon the local agency involved and the applicant or recipient, shall be complied with by that agency unless reversed on appeal as provided in Laws 1973, Chapter 650, Article 21, and shall be so complied with pending any such appeal.

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Sec. 4. Laws 1973, Chapter 650, Article XXI, Section 32, is amended to read:

Sec. 32. There is hereby appropriated to the commissioner of public welfare, for the biennium ending June 30, 1975, the sum of \$10,700,000 for the purpose of state aid for general assistance ; provided that these funds shall be prorated to the counties if this appropriation is not sufficient to pay 50 percent of the cost according to Minnesota Statutes, Section 245A.03, Subdivision 2. No county may reduce its grants to recipients as a result of/or anticipation of the proration of state funds .

Sec. 5. This act is effective the day following final enactment; provided, however, that payments shall be made retroactive to January 1, 1974.

Approved March 27, 1974.

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**CHAPTER 298—S.F.No.3247**  
[Coded]

*An act relating to licensing and public employment; ex-criminal offenders; providing that persons shall not be disqualified from certain occupations solely because of prior criminal convictions.*

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

Section 1. **[364.01] DISCRIMINATION AGAINST EX-CRIMINAL OFFENDERS; POLICY.** The legislature declares that it is the policy of the state of Minnesota to encourage and contribute to the rehabilitation of criminal offenders and to assist them in the resumption of the responsibilities of citizenship. The opportunity to secure employment or to pursue, practice, or engage in a meaningful and profitable trade, occupation, vocation, profession or business is essential to rehabilitation and the resumption of the responsibilities of citizenship.

Sec. 2. **[364.02] DEFINITIONS.** Subdivision 1. For the purposes of this act, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **OCCUPATION.** "Occupation" includes all occupations, trades, vocations, professions, businesses, or employment of any kind for which a license is required to be issued by the state of Minnesota, its agencies, or political subdivisions.

Subd. 3. **LICENSE.** "License" includes all licenses, permits, certificates, registrations, or other means required to engage in an occupation which are granted or issued by the state of Minnesota, its agents

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