

CHAPTER 256C

HANDICAPPED PERSONS

256C.24 Regional service centers.
256C.25 Interpreter services.

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256C.24 REGIONAL SERVICE CENTERS.

Subdivision 1. **Location.** The commissioner of human services shall establish up to eight regional service centers for hearing impaired persons. The centers shall be distributed regionally to provide access for hearing impaired persons in all parts of the state. The center shall maintain a current registry of those persons having or suspected of having a hearing impairment who live in that region. A special task of the registry is to assure that referrals and follow-up services are completed with respect to persons in the register.

Subd. 2. **Responsibilities.** The regional service center shall:

- (a) serve as the central entry point for hearing impaired persons in need of human services and make referrals to the services needed;
- (b) employ staff trained to work with hearing impaired persons;
- (c) provide to all hearing impaired persons interpreter services which are necessary to help them obtain human services;
- (d) serve as the regional interpreter referral center for hearing impaired persons and human services agencies;
- (e) loan equipment and resource materials to hearing impaired persons; and
- (f) cooperate with responsible departments and administrative authorities to provide access for hearing impaired persons to services provided by state, county and regional agencies.

Subd. 3. **Advisory committee.** The commissioner of human services shall appoint an advisory committee of eight persons for each regional service center. Members shall include four persons who are hearing impaired persons or who are the parents of a hearing impaired child and four representatives of county and regional human services, including representatives of private service providers. Members shall serve without payment by the state of per diem or expense. The commissioner of human services shall designate one member as chairperson. The commissioner of human services shall assign staff to serve as ex officio members of the committee.

History: *1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 24*

256C.25 INTERPRETER SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of human services shall supervise the development and implementation of a statewide interpreter referral service. The commissioner of human services shall contract with appropriate organizations to provide this centralized service.

[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1984]

History: *1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 25*

256C.26 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

The commissioner of jobs and training shall include in the biennial plan submitted to the full productivity and opportunity coordinator a method to deal with

the underemployment of hearing impaired persons. The plan shall provide for training regarding the nature of hearing handicaps for department staff who consult with prospective employers or who provide job placement services.

History: *1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 26*

256C.28 COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.

Subdivision 1. **Membership.** The Minnesota council for the hearing impaired consists of seven members appointed by the commissioner of human services and a member from each advisory council established under section 256C.24, subdivision 3. At least four of the members appointed by the commissioner must be hearing impaired. Council members appointed by the commissioner serve four-year terms, except for the members first appointed, of whom three are appointed for a term ending December 31, 1990, two for terms ending December 31, 1989, and two for terms ending December 31, 1988.

Subd. 2. **Removal; vacancies.** The compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the council are as provided in section 15.0575.

Subd. 3. **Duties.** The council shall:

(1) advise the commissioner on the development of policies, programs, and services affecting the hearing impaired, and on the use of appropriate federal and state money;

(2) create a public awareness of the special needs and potential of hearing impaired persons; and

(3) provide the commissioner with a review of ongoing services, programs, and proposed legislation affecting the hearing impaired.

History: *1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 27*