

## CHAPTER 256C

### HANDICAPPED PERSONS

256C.02 Public accommodations.

256C.24 Regional service centers.

256C.25 Interpreter services.

256C.26 Employment services.

256C.28 Council for the hearing impaired.

**256C.02 PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS.**

The blind, the visually handicapped, and the otherwise physically disabled have the same right as the able-bodied to the full and free use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, and other public places; and are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motor buses, boats, or any other public conveyances or modes of transportation, hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusement, or resort, and other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons.

Every totally or partially blind, physically handicapped, or deaf person shall have the right to be accompanied by a service dog in any of the places listed in section 363.03, subdivision 10. The person shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such dog. The service dog must be capable of being properly identified as from a recognized school for seeing eye, hearing ear, service, or guide dogs.

*History: 1987 c 141 s 1*

**256C.24 REGIONAL SERVICE CENTERS.**

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1986]*

**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 access to interpreter services which are necessary to help them obtain human services;

(d) assist the central interpreter referral agency with local and regional interpreter referrals;

(e) implement a plan to provide 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 persons who are hearing impaired, parents of hearing impaired children, and representatives of county and regional human services, including representatives of private service providers. At least 50 percent of the members must be hearing impaired. The commissioner of human services shall designate one member as chair. The commissioner of human services shall assign staff to serve as ex officio members of the committee. The compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the committee shall be as provided in section 15.0575.

*History: 1987 c 302 s 1,2*

**256C.25 INTERPRETER SERVICES.**

**Subdivision 1. Establishment.** The commissioner of human services shall super-

vises the development and implementation of a statewide interpreter referral service. The commissioner of human services shall contract with an appropriate agency to provide this centralized service.

**Subd. 2. Duties.** The central interpreter referral agency shall:

(a) Establish and maintain a statewide interpreter referral service, maintain statistics related to interpreter referral services, and maintain a statewide directory of qualified interpreters;

(b) Cooperate with the regional service centers in providing interpreter referral service; and

(c) Cooperate with the regional service centers on projects to train interpreters and advocate for and evaluate interpreter services.

**History:** 1987 c 302 s 3,4

## **256C.26 EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.**

The commissioner of jobs and training shall develop a plan 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:** 1987 c 403 art 2 s 102

## **256C.28 COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.**

**Subdivision 1. Membership.** The Minnesota council for the hearing impaired consists of seven members appointed at large and one member from each advisory committee established under section 256C.24, subdivision 3. At least 50 percent of the members must be hearing impaired. Members shall include persons who are hearing impaired, parents of hearing impaired children, and representatives of county and regional human services, including representatives of private service providers. Council members are appointed by the commissioner of human services for a two-year term and shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. The commissioner of human services shall appoint one member as chair.

*[For text of subd 2, see M.S.1986]*

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

(1) advise the commissioner and governor 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 and governor with a review of ongoing services, programs, and proposed legislation affecting the hearing impaired.

**History:** 1987 c 302 s 5,6