

CHAPTER 256C

HANDICAPPED PERSONS

256C.02 Public accommodations.
256C.28 Council for the hearing impaired.

256C.29 Communications devices required in
bus terminals.

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 or any person training a dog to be a service dog 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: 1989 c 108 s 1

256C.28 COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1988]

Subd. 3. Duties. The council shall:

(1) advise the commissioner, the governor, and the legislature on the nature of the issues and disabilities confronting hearing impaired persons in Minnesota;

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

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

(4) provide the commissioner, the governor, and the legislature with a review of ongoing services, programs, and proposed legislation affecting hearing impaired persons;

(5) advise the commissioner, the governor, and the legislature on statutes or rules necessary to ensure that hearing impaired persons have access to benefits and services provided to individuals in Minnesota;

(6) recommend to the commissioner, the governor, and the legislature legislation designed to improve the economic and social conditions of hearing impaired persons in Minnesota;

(7) propose solutions to problems of hearing impaired persons in the areas of education, employment, human rights, human services, health, housing, and other related programs;

(8) recommend to the governor and the legislature any needed revisions in the state's affirmative action program and any other steps necessary to eliminate the underemployment or unemployment of hearing impaired persons in the state's work force;

(9) work with other state and federal agencies and organizations to promote economic development for hearing impaired Minnesotans; and

(10) coordinate its efforts with other state and local agencies serving hearing impaired persons.

Subd. 4. Staff. The council may appoint, subject to the approval of the governor, an executive director who must be experienced in administrative activities and familiar with the problems and needs of hearing impaired persons. The council may delegate to the executive director any powers and duties under this section that do not require council approval. The executive director serves in the unclassified service and may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the council. The executive director shall coordinate the provision of necessary support services to the council with the state department of human services.

Subd. 5. Powers. The council may contract in its own name. Contracts must be approved by a majority of the members of the council and executed by the chair and the executive director. The council may apply for, receive, and expend in its own name grants and gifts of money consistent with the powers and duties specified in this section.

Subd. 6. Report. The council shall prepare and distribute a report to the commissioner, the governor, and the legislature by December 31 of each even-numbered year. The report must summarize the activities of the council since its prior report, list receipts and expenditures, identify the major problems and issues confronting hearing impaired persons, make recommendations regarding needed policy and program development on behalf of hearing impaired individuals in Minnesota, and list the specific objectives the council seeks to attain during the next biennium.

History: 1989 c 282 art 2 s 122-125

256C.29 COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES REQUIRED IN BUS TERMINALS.

The operator of a bus terminal in the city of Minneapolis or St. Paul that serves intercity buses, defined in section 168.011, subdivision 9, shall provide, in public areas in the terminal, public pay telephones with telecommunications devices, commonly known as "TDD's," that permit a communication-impaired person to communicate with others by telephone. The operator shall place signs at strategic locations in and about the terminal indicating where the telephones are available.

History: 1989 c 111 s 1