

CHAPTER 791—S. F. No. 1731

An act relating to prior authorization for medical care under the categorical aid programs; amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 256.01, Subdivision 2, as amended.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 256.01, Subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 1955, Chapter 627, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. The commissioner of public welfare shall:

(1) Administer and supervise all forms of public assistance in the state including general relief, relief to transients and state homeless, relief to veterans, old age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind and otherwise handicapped persons and such other welfare activities or services as may from time to time be vested in the director. Nothing herein shall transfer from the soldiers home board any of its present rights, powers, or duties, all of which shall continue to be exercised by said board.

(2) Administer and supervise all child welfare activities; promote the enforcement of laws protecting defective, illegitimate, dependent, neglected and delinquent children; license and supervise child-caring and child-placing agencies and institutions; supervise the care of children in boarding and foster homes or in private institutions; and generally perform all functions relating to the field of child welfare now vested in the state board of control.

(3) Administer and supervise all mental hygiene work involving persons not in a state institution. The authority and power conferred by this subdivision does not extend to administration or supervision of state institutions of mental hygiene nor to patients therein during the period of actual confinement, nor to mental testing, or to persons feeble-minded, epileptic, or mentally ill on parole from state institutions.

(4) Administer and supervise all non-institutional services to the handicapped persons, including the blind, the deaf, the tubercular, the crippled, and otherwise handicapped persons. The authority and power conferred by this subdivision shall include such non-institutional services to the handicapped as are now authorized to be performed by the state board of control and by the division of the deaf of the state industrial commission.

(5) Assist and actively cooperate with other departments, agencies and institutions, local, state, and federal, by

performing services in conformity with the purposes of Laws 1939, Chapter 431, including the establishment of an efficient working relationship with the director of institutions relating to the care and supervision of individuals both prior to and after departure from institutions under the supervision of said director of institutions.

(6) Act as the agent of and cooperate with the federal government in matters of mutual concern relative to and in conformity with the provisions of Laws 1939, Chapter 431, including the administration of any federal funds granted to the state to aid in the performance of any functions of the commissioner as specified in Laws 1939, Chapter 431, and including the promulgation of rules and regulations making uniformly available medical care benefits to all recipients of public assistance, at such times as the federal government increases its participation in assistance expenditures for medical care to recipients of public assistance, the cost thereof to be borne in the same proportion as are grants of aid to said recipients.

(7) Establish and maintain such administrative units as may reasonably be necessary for the performance of administrative functions common to all divisions of the department.

(8) Administer and supervise such additional welfare activities and services as may, from time to time, hereafter be vested by law in the state department.

(9) Establish within his division a bureau of old age assistance, of aid to dependent children, and a bureau of child welfare.

(10) The commissioner is hereby specifically constituted as guardian of both the estate and the person of all of the wards of the state of Minnesota and other persons the guardianship of whom has been heretofore vested in the state board of control, whether by operation of law or by an order of court, without any further act or proceeding whatever, except as to persons committed as feeble-minded or epileptic. All of said guardianships, and the funds and property of the same, are hereby transferred to and vested in said commissioner, and said commissioner is hereby constituted a legal entity and is hereby empowered to act as guardian under any laws of this state heretofore conferring such powers upon the state board of control.

(11) All the powers and duties vested in or imposed upon the director of public institutions with reference to the

state sanatorium for consumptives are hereby transferred to, vested in, and imposed upon the commissioner of public welfare. The commissioner of public welfare shall appoint the superintendent of the state sanatorium, but shall not have the power to fix his salary.

(12) Act as coordinating referral and informational center on requests for service for newly arrived immigrants coming to Minnesota.

(13) The specific enumeration of powers and duties as hereinabove set forth shall in no way be construed to be a limitation upon the general transfer of powers herein contained.

(14) Establish county, regional, or state wide schedules of maximum fees and charges which may be paid by county welfare boards for medical, dental, surgical, hospital, nursing and nursing home care and medicine and medical supplies under the categorical aid programs.

(15) Require that county welfare boards shall not pay for non-emergency surgical, hospital, or licensed nursing home care under the categorical aid programs unless the board has given prior authorization for such care; and authorize county welfare boards to require prior authorization for non-emergency medical, dental or nursing care or medicine and medical supplies.

Approved April 27, 1957.

CHAPTER 792—S. F. No. 1738

[Not Coded]

An act relating to the issuance of bonds by certain school districts in certain counties.

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

Section 1. **Unorganized school districts, bond issue.** Any unorganized school district, located in any county of this state now or hereafter having an area in excess of 5,000 square miles, notwithstanding any other law of this state limiting the bonded indebtedness of such unorganized school district, may issue bonds for the purposes now authorized by law in an amount not to exceed five percent of the taxable valuation of all property located in the county.

Approved April 27, 1957.
