

amount of contributions, interest, and penalties exceeds \$5,000.

Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 1974, Section 268.18, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 4. CANCELLATION OF BENEFITS PAID THROUGH ERROR OR FRAUD. When benefits paid through error or fraud are not repaid or deducted from subsequent benefit amounts as provided for in subdivisions 1 and 2 within six years after the date of the determination that benefits were paid through error or fraud, the commissioner may, in a manner he prescribes by regulation, cancel as uncollectible the benefit payments, and no administrative or legal proceedings shall be instituted under the Minnesota employment services law to enforce collection of those amounts.

Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 1974, Section 268.07, Subdivision 5, is repealed.

Sec. 26. The portions of this act amending Minnesota Statutes 1974, Section 268.04, Subdivision 12, and Section 268.08, Subdivision 5, shall become effective on July 1, 1977 except for the provision in section 268.08, subdivision 5, relating to payments to employees of political subdivisions, which provision shall become effective the day following final enactment.

Approved June 4, 1975.

CHAPTER 337—H.F.No.67

[Coded]

An act relating to handicapped persons; providing an interpreter in all proceedings.

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

Section 1. **[546.42] HANDICAPPED PERSONS; INTERPRETERS.** For the purposes of sections 1 to 3 a handicapped person is one who, because of a hearing, speech or other communication disorder, or because of the inability to speak or comprehend the English language, is unable to understand the proceedings in which he is required to participate, or when named as a party to a legal proceeding, is unable by reason of such deficiency to obtain due process of law.

Sec. 2. **[546.43] PROCEEDINGS WHERE INTERPRETER APPOINTED.** Subdivision 1. In a civil action in which a handicapped person is a litigant or witness, the presiding judicial officer shall appoint a qualified interpreter to serve throughout the proceedings.

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Subd. 2. In a proceeding before a board, commission, agency, or licensing authority of the state, or of a political subdivision of the state, where a witness or the principal party in interest is a handicapped person, all of the proceedings that are pertinent shall be interpreted in a language the handicapped person understands by a qualified interpreter appointed by the board, commission, agency, or licensing authority.

Sec. 3. **[546.44] QUALIFIED INTERPRETER.** Subdivision 1. No person shall be appointed as a qualified interpreter pursuant to sections 1 to 3 unless he is readily able to communicate with the handicapped person, translate the proceedings for him, and accurately repeat and translate the statements of the handicapped person to the officials before whom the proceeding is taking place.

Subd. 2. A qualified interpreter appointed pursuant to the provisions of sections 1 to 3, before entering upon his duties shall take an oath that he will, to the best of his skill and judgment, make a true interpretation to the handicapped person being examined of all the proceedings, in a language which the person understands, and that he will repeat in the English language the statements of the handicapped person to the court or other official before whom the proceeding is taking place.

Subd. 3. The fees and expenses of a qualified interpreter shall be determined by the presiding official and paid by the court, board, commission, agency or licensing authority before whom the proceeding is taking place.

Approved June 5, 1975.

CHAPTER 338—H.F.No.69

[Coded]

An act relating to athletics; providing for equal opportunity for members of both sexes to participate in athletics; amending Minnesota Statutes 1974, Chapter 126, by adding a section; repealing Laws 1974, Chapter 355, Section 68, Subdivision 4.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1974, Chapter 126, is amended by adding a section to read as follows:

[126.21] DISCRIMINATION; ATHLETICS; EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. Subdivision 1. Notwithstanding any other state law to the contrary, in athletic programs operated by educational institutions or public services and designed for participants 12 years old or older or in the

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