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ARTICLE 6  
MISCELLANEOUS

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ARTICLE 7  
MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 44. Homelessness and Housing Support Office. (a) The Homelessness and Housing Support Office is established in the Department of Human Services. The office shall be under the supervision of an assistant commissioner appointed by the commissioner.

(b) The commissioner, working with the assistant commissioner for homelessness and housing support, shall:

(1) administer the following programs:

(i) housing stabilization services under section 256B.051, subdivision 7;

(ii) general assistance under sections 256D.01 to 256D.17;

(iii) Minnesota supplemental aid under sections 256D.33 to 256D.54;

(iv) the transitional housing program under section 256E.33;

(v) the emergency services program under section 256E.36;

(vi) the emergency solutions grant;

(vii) bridging benefits;

(viii) the housing support program under chapter 256I;

(ix) community living infrastructure grants under section 256I.09;

(x) long-term homeless supportive services under section 256K.26;

(xi) the Homeless Youth Act under section 256K.45;

(xii) the shelter-linked youth mental health grant program under section 256K.46;

(xiii) safe harbor shelter and housing under section 256K.47;

(xiv) emergency shelter facilities grants under Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 11, section 14; and

(xv) the homeless youth cash stipend pilot project under Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 11, section 13;

(2) coordinate with the Interagency Council on Homelessness;

- 125.1       (3) make recommendations to the legislature on improving access to homeless services  
125.2 and supportive housing, improving service delivery, and improving the effectiveness of the  
125.3 state's homeless and supportive housing system;
- 125.4       (4) engage with other state agencies, counties, Tribes, advocacy organizations, and other  
125.5 stakeholders on issues related to homelessness in Minnesota; and
- 125.6       (5) perform other duties related to the provision of services to people experiencing  
125.7 homelessness in the state.
- 125.8       (c) By January 15 of each year, the assistant commissioner must submit an annual report  
125.9 to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services policy and finance  
125.10 detailing the activities of the office and making recommendations for system improvements,  
125.11 including any necessary draft legislation.
- 125.12       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.
- 125.13       Sec. 2. **[462A.291] INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS;**  
125.14 **HOMELESSNESS DATA REPORTING.**
- 125.15       (a) By January 15 of each year, the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness,  
125.16 in consultation with the commissioner of human services and other relevant state agencies,  
125.17 must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with  
125.18 jurisdiction over homelessness policy and finance key trends and other relevant summary  
125.19 data on the state of homelessness in Minnesota, including but not limited to:
- 125.20       (1) the number of people experiencing homelessness, including the sheltered and  
125.21 unsheltered populations;
- 125.22       (2) the demographic composition of people experiencing homelessness;
- 125.23       (3) information on the intersection between homelessness and other relevant factors,  
125.24 including but not limited to mental health and substance use disorder;
- 125.25       (4) the change in the number and subpopulations of people experiencing homelessness  
125.26 from year to year; and
- 125.27       (5) any other relevant data on homelessness trends and outcomes in Minnesota.
- 125.28       (b) The Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness may use publicly available  
125.29 data from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual  
125.30 point-in-time count, the homeless management information system, and other relevant  
125.31 sources for the information collected and reported under paragraph (a). The information  
125.32 must also be available on the website of the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness.

- 109.22       Section 1. **FREE COMMUNICATION SERVICES.**
- 109.23       Subdivision 1. **Free communication services.** (a) A facility must provide patients and  
109.24 clients with voice communication services. A facility may supplement voice communication

109.25 services with other communication services, including but not limited to video  
109.26 communication and email or electronic messaging services. A facility must continue to  
109.27 offer the services the facility offered as of January 1, 2024.

109.28 (b) To the extent that voice or other communication services are provided, which must  
109.29 not be limited beyond program participation and routine facility policies and procedures,  
110.1 neither the individual initiating the communication nor the individual receiving the  
110.2 communication must be charged for the service.

110.3 Subd. 2. **Communication services restrictions.** Nothing in this section allows a patient  
110.4 or client to violate an active protection order, harassment restraining order, or other no-contact  
110.5 order or directive. Nothing in this section entitles a civilly committed person to  
110.6 communication services restricted or limited under Minnesota Statutes, section 253B.03,  
110.7 subdivision 3, or 253D.19.

110.8 Subd. 3. **Revenue prohibited.** Direct Care and Treatment must not receive revenue  
110.9 from the provision of voice communication services or any other communication services  
110.10 under this section.

110.11 Subd. 4. **Visitation programs.** (a) Facilities shall maintain in-person visits for patients  
110.12 or clients. Communication services, including video calls, must not be used to replace a  
110.13 facility's in-person visitation program or be counted toward a patient's or client's in-person  
110.14 visitation limit.

110.15 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the Direct Care and Treatment executive board may  
110.16 waive the in-person visitation program requirement under this subdivision if there is:

110.17 (1) a declared emergency under Minnesota Statutes, section 12.31; or

110.18 (2) a local-, state-, or federal-declared natural disaster.

110.19 Subd. 5. **Reporting.** (a) By January 15, 2027, the Direct Care and Treatment executive  
110.20 board must report the information described in paragraph (b) to the commissioner of  
110.21 corrections. By March 15, 2027, the commissioner of corrections must submit a summary  
110.22 of the information submitted under this paragraph to the chairs and ranking minority members  
110.23 of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over corrections and human services policy  
110.24 and finance.

110.25 (b) The Direct Care and Treatment executive board must include the following  
110.26 information covering fiscal year 2025 in its annual report to the commissioner of corrections  
110.27 required under paragraph (a):

110.28 (1) the status of all the agency's communication contracts; efforts to renegotiate the  
110.29 agency's communication contracts, including the rates the agency is paying or charging  
110.30 confined people or community members for any and all services in the contracts; and plans  
110.31 to consolidate the agency's communication contracts to maximize purchasing power;

111.1       (2) a complete and detailed accounting of how appropriated funds for communication  
111.2 services are spent, including spending on expenses previously covered by commissions;  
111.3 and

111.4       (3) summary data on usage of all communication services, including monthly call and  
111.5 message volume.

111.6       Subd. 6. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
111.7 meanings given:

111.8       (1) "voice communications" means real-time, audio-only communication services,  
111.9 namely phone calls made over wireline telephony, voice over Internet protocol, or any other  
111.10 technology infrastructure;

111.11       (2) "other communication services" means communication services other than voice  
111.12 communications, including but not limited to video calls and electronic messages; and

111.13       (3) "facility" means any facility, setting, or program owned, operated, or under the  
111.14 programmatic or fiscal control of Direct Care and Treatment.

111.15       Subd. 7. **Expiration.** Subdivisions 1 to 4 expire June 30, 2026. Subdivisions 5 and 6  
111.16 expire upon submission by the Direct Care and Treatment executive board of the report to  
111.17 the legislature required under subdivision 5.

111.18       Sec. 2. **COMMUNITY CARE HUB PLANNING GRANT.**

111.19       Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of health shall establish a single grant  
111.20 to develop and design programs to expand and strengthen the community care hub model,  
111.21 which organizes and supports a network of health and social care service providers to address  
111.22 health-related social needs.

111.23       Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
111.24 meanings given.

111.25       (b) "Community-based organization" means a public or private nonprofit organization  
111.26 of demonstrated effectiveness that is representative of a community or significant segments  
111.27 of a community and provides educational or related services to individuals in the community.

111.28       (c) "Community care hub" means a nonprofit organization that provides a centralized  
111.29 administrative and operational interface between health care institutions and a network of  
111.30 community-based organizations that provide health promotion and social care services.

112.1       (d) "Health-related social needs" means the individual-level, adverse social conditions  
112.2 that can negatively impact a person's health or health care, such as poor health literacy, food  
112.3 insecurity, housing instability, and lack of access to transportation.

112.4       (e) "Social care services" means culturally informed services to address health-related  
112.5 social needs and community-informed health promotion programs.

112.6 Subd. 3. **Eligible applicants.** To be eligible for the single grant available under this  
112.7 section, a grant applicant must:

112.8 (1) be recognized as a selected community care hub by the federal Administration for  
112.9 Community Living and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

112.10 (2) hold contracts with health plans within Minnesota that allow the applicant to provide  
112.11 social care services to a plan's covered member population; and

112.12 (3) demonstrate active engagement in providing, coordinating, and aiding health care  
112.13 and social care services at the community level.

112.14 Subd. 4. **Eligible uses.** The grantee must use awarded funding to develop and design  
112.15 programs that support the development of a social care network that provides services to  
112.16 address health-related social needs. Activities eligible for funding under this section include  
112.17 but are not limited to education activities, feasibility studies, program design, and pilots.

112.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

112.19 Sec. 3. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; WAIVER TO NURSE STAFFING**  
112.20 **REQUIREMENTS.**

112.21 The commissioner of health must submit a request for a waiver to the requirement that  
112.22 nursing homes have a registered nurse on site 24 hours per day.

126.1 Sec. 3. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT**  
126.2 **REDESIGN.**

126.3 The commissioner of human services must consult with members of the Minnesota  
126.4 Association of County Social Service Administrators to improve case management  
126.5 information systems and identify the necessary changes needed to comply with regulations  
126.6 related to federal certified public expenditures. The changes must facilitate transition to use  
126.7 of a 15-minute unit rate or improved financial reporting for fee-for-service targeted case  
126.8 management services provided by counties. The Social Service Information System and  
126.9 adjacent systems must be modified to support any increase in the intensity of time reporting  
126.10 requirements prior to any implementation of proposed changes to targeted case management  
126.11 rate setting, reimbursement, and reconciliation processes.

126.12 Sec. 4. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; FEDERAL WAIVERS FOR**  
126.13 **HEALTH-RELATED SOCIAL NEEDS.**

126.14 (a) The commissioner of human services shall develop a strategy to implement  
126.15 interventions to address unmet health-related social needs, including but not limited to  
126.16 nutrition support, housing support, case management, and violence prevention. In developing  
126.17 such a strategy, the commissioner shall consider whether services could be reimbursed

126.18 under section 1115 of the Social Security Act, other federal waivers, or existing state  
126.19 authority.

126.20 (b) The commissioner shall collaborate with the commissioner of health and community  
126.21 and other external partners providing services in nutrition, housing, case management, and  
126.22 violence prevention to medical assistance recipients on specific interventions to include in  
126.23 the proposed strategy.

126.24 (c) By March 1, 2025, the commissioner shall provide the strategy developed under this  
126.25 section to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with  
126.26 jurisdiction over health care finance and must include:

126.27 (1) a proposed timeline for implementation;

126.28 (2) an estimate of the administrative and programmatic costs associated with  
126.29 implementing and evaluating any proposed federal waivers; and

126.30 (3) any statutory changes necessary to seek ongoing state funding and federal authority  
126.31 for the proposed strategies.

126.32 (d) The commissioner may perform the steps necessary to develop a federal waiver or  
126.33 other strategies identified in paragraph (c) in preparation for enactment of the strategies.

127.1 (e) The commissioner is exempt from the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, chapter  
127.2 16C, when entering into a new contract or amending an existing contract to complete the  
127.3 work under this section.

127.4 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

127.5 Sec. 5. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; STUDY OF NAVIGATOR**  
127.6 **REIMBURSEMENT.**

127.7 (a) The commissioner of human services, in collaboration with the board of directors of  
127.8 MNsure, shall conduct an analysis of the navigator and in-person assister programs in  
127.9 Minnesota Statutes, section 62V.05, subdivision 4. The analysis must consider the incentive  
127.10 program in Minnesota Statutes, section 256.962, subdivision 5, including examining  
127.11 reimbursement levels and methodologies used in other states and recommending a sustainable  
127.12 source of funding for the navigator program. The analysis must also include consultation  
127.13 with individual navigators and navigator organizations.

127.14 (b) By October 1, 2025, the commissioner shall submit the analysis under this section  
127.15 and recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative  
127.16 committees with jurisdiction over human services and health care finance.

127.17 Sec. 6. **WORKING GROUP ON SIMPLIFYING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**  
127.18 **RESOURCES.**

127.19 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A working group on simplifying supportive housing  
127.20 resources is established to streamline access, eligibility, and administration of state-funded  
127.21 supportive housing resources for people experiencing homelessness.

127.22 Subd. 2. **Membership.** (a) The working group must prioritize membership from  
127.23 individuals and organizations that use or administer state-funded supportive housing resources  
127.24 and must include the following:

127.25 (1) the commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency or designee;

127.26 (2) the commissioner of human services or designee;

127.27 (3) two representatives from the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless;

127.28 (4) eight representatives from organizations providing services to people experiencing  
127.29 homelessness, including organizations that provide services to youth experiencing  
127.30 homelessness and populations that disproportionately experience homelessness, and a  
127.31 coordinated entry provider;

128.1 (5) one representative with lived experience of homelessness;

128.2 (6) one representative from the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative;

128.3 (7) one representative from Hennepin County;

128.4 (8) one representative from St. Louis County;

128.5 (9) two members from the house of representatives, one appointed by the speaker of the  
128.6 house and one appointed by the minority leader; and

128.7 (10) two members from the senate appointed by the senate committee on committees,  
128.8 one representing the majority caucus and one representing the minority caucus.

128.9 (b) The members listed in paragraph (a), clauses (3) to (8), must be appointed by the  
128.10 commissioner of human services.

128.11 (c) All appointing authorities must make their appointments to the working group by  
128.12 August 1, 2024.

128.13 Subd. 3. **Duties.** (a) The working group must study supportive housing resources to  
128.14 streamline access, eligibility, and administration of state-funded supportive housing resources  
128.15 for people experiencing homelessness, including the following programs:

128.16 (1) the housing support program;

128.17 (2) long-term homeless supportive services;

- 128.18 (3) housing with supports for adults with serious mental illness;  
128.19 (4) the housing trust fund; and  
128.20 (5) other capital and operating funds administered by the Minnesota Housing Finance  
128.21 Agency.
- 128.22 (b) In studying supportive housing resources, the working group must identify the  
128.23 processes, procedures, and technological or personnel resources that would be necessary to  
128.24 enable the state, county or Tribal agencies, and providers responsible for administering  
128.25 public supportive housing funds to meet the following goals:
- 128.26 (1) reduce administrative complexities;  
128.27 (2) enhance equity and accessibility, including coordinated entry;  
128.28 (3) streamline and simplify eligibility criteria, paperwork, and funding distribution; and  
128.29 (4) accelerate the transition of individuals from homelessness to sustainable long-term  
128.30 solutions.
- 129.1 Subd. 4. **Compensation.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision  
129.2 3, members of the working group shall not be compensated, except for the member with  
129.3 lived experience of homelessness.
- 129.4 Subd. 5. **Meetings; facilitation.** (a) The commissioner of human services may contract  
129.5 with a third-party vendor to facilitate the working group and convene the first meeting by  
129.6 January 15, 2025.
- 129.7 (b) The working group must meet at regular intervals as often as necessary to fulfill the  
129.8 duties under subdivision 3.
- 129.9 (c) Meetings of the working group are subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law  
129.10 under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.
- 129.11 Subd. 6. **Consultation.** The working group must consult with other individuals and  
129.12 organizations that have expertise and experience in providing supportive services that may  
129.13 assist the working group in fulfilling its responsibilities, including entities engaging in  
129.14 additional external stakeholder input from those with lived experience of homelessness and  
129.15 administrators of state-funded supportive housing not included on the working group.
- 129.16 Subd. 7. **Report required.** The working group shall submit a final report by January  
129.17 15, 2026, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with  
129.18 jurisdiction over housing and homelessness finance and policy detailing the recommendations  
129.19 to streamline access, eligibility, and administration of state-funded supportive housing  
129.20 resources for people experiencing homelessness. The report shall include draft legislation  
129.21 required to implement the proposed legislation.

- 129.22Subd. 8. **Expiration.** The working group expires January 15, 2026.
- 129.23**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- 129.24Sec. 7. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**
- 129.25The revisor of statutes shall renumber each section of Minnesota Statutes listed in column
- 129.26A with the number listed in column B. The revisor shall also make necessary cross-reference
- 129.27changes consistent with the renumbering:

129.28	<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>
129.29	<u>256E.33</u>	<u>256K.48</u>
129.30	<u>256E.36</u>	<u>256K.49</u>