

Relief of Poor
CHAPTER 261
GENERAL PROVISIONS

261.001	Abolition of town system of poor relief.	261.23	Costs of hospitalization.
261.002	Transfer of town employees.	261.231	County board may delegate certain powers.
261.003	Eligibility standards, rules and regulations.	261.232	Duties of the commissioner of public welfare.
261.035	Burial at expense of county.	261.25	Uniform transfer of dependents act.
261.04	Liability of estate.	261.251	Interpretation.
261.062	Tax for support of poor.	261.27	Children placed in foster homes; liability for cost of care.
261.063	Tax levy for social security measures; duties of county board.	261.28	Subsidy for abortions prohibited.
261.21	Hospitalization for indigent persons.		
261.22	Application filed.		

261.001 ABOLITION OF TOWN SYSTEM OF POOR RELIEF.

Subdivision 1. The town system for caring for the poor is hereby abolished; hereafter, the county welfare board of each county shall administer poor relief.

Subd. 2. All county welfare boards affected by Laws 1973, Chapter 380 are hereby authorized to take over for the county as of January 1, 1974, the ownership of all case records relating to the administration of poor relief in the several municipalities and towns in the county.

History: 1973 c 380 s 1

261.002 TRANSFER OF TOWN EMPLOYEES.

Subdivision 1. The term "merit system" as used herein shall mean the rules for a merit system of personnel administration for employees of county welfare boards adopted by the commissioner of public welfare in accordance with the provisions of section 393.07, including the merit system established for Hennepin county pursuant to Laws 1965, Chapter 855, as amended, the federal social security act as amended, and merit system standards and regulations issued by the federal social security board and the United States children's bureau.

Subd. 2. All employees of any municipality or town who are engaged full time in poor relief work therein on January 1, 1974 shall be retained as employees of the county and placed under the jurisdiction of its welfare board.

All such employees shall be blanketed into the merit system with comparable status, classification, longevity, and seniority, and subject to the administrative requirements of the county welfare board. Employees with permanent status under any civil service provision on January 1, 1974 shall be granted permanent status under the merit system at comparable classifications and in accordance with work assignments made under the authority of the county welfare board as provided by the merit system rules.

The determination of proper job allocation shall be the responsibility of the personnel officer or director as provided under merit system rules applicable to the county involved with the right of appeal of allocation to the merit system council or personnel board by any employee affected by this transfer.

All transferred employees shall receive salaries for the classification to which they are allocated in accordance with the schedule in effect for county welfare board employees and at a salary step which they normally would have received had they been employed by the county welfare board for the same period of service they had previously served under the civil service provisions of any municipality or town; provided, however, that no salary shall be reduced as a result of the transfer.

All accumulated sick leave of transferred employees in the amount of 60 days or less shall be transferred to the records of the county welfare board and shall be the legal liability of the county welfare board. All accumulated sick leave in excess of 60 days shall be paid in cash to transferred employees by the municipality or town by which they were employed prior to their transfer, at the time of transfer. In lieu of the cash payment, the municipality or town shall, at the option of the employee concerned, allow a leave of absence with pay, prior to transfer, for all or part of the accumulated sick leave.

Subd. 3. Employees of municipalities and towns engaged in the work of administering poor relief who are not covered by civil service provisions shall be blanketed into the merit system subject to a qualifying examination. Employees with one year or more service shall be subject to a qualifying examination and those with less than one year's service shall be subject to an open competitive examination.

Subd. 4. All vacation leave of employees referred to in subdivision 2, accumulated prior to their transfer to county employment shall be paid in cash to them by the municipality or town by which they were employed prior to their transfer, at the time of transfer. In lieu of the cash payment, the municipality or town shall, at the option of the employee concerned, allow a leave of absence with pay, prior to transfer, for all or part of the accumulated vacation time.

History: 1973 c 380 s 2

261.003 ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The commissioner of public welfare shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with chapter 15, prescribing minimum standards of eligibility and payment for poor relief, which shall recognize cost of living differences in the various counties of the state.

History: 1973 c 380 s 4

261.01 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33; 1974 c 355 s 72]

261.02 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 556 s 2; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.03 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33; 1974 c 355 s 72]

261.035 BURIAL AT EXPENSE OF COUNTY.

When a person dies in any county, not leaving sufficient means to defray the necessary expenses of his burial, nor any relatives therein of sufficient ability to procure his burial, the county board shall cause a decent burial of his remains to be made at the expense of the county.

History: RL s 1503 (3176)

261.04 LIABILITY OF ESTATE.

Subdivision 1. **Support, maintenance, care, or burial.** When any person is furnished or provided with support, maintenance, care, including care at the University of Minnesota hospitals, or burial as a poor person the county so furnishing such aid shall have a claim therefor against the person or his estate for the reasonable value thereof, which claim may be presented and prosecuted by such county at its option upon discovery of any property belonging to the poor person or to his estate.

Subd. 2. **Claims filed in probate court.** Such claims, when against the estate of a deceased person, shall be filed in probate court and acted upon as in the case of other claims.

History: 1925 c 60 s 1,2; 1969 c 247 s 1; 1973 c 380 s 8; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 23 (3159-1, 3159-2)

261.05 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.06 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.061 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.062 TAX FOR SUPPORT OF POOR.

The county board shall levy a tax annually sufficient to defray the estimated expenses of supporting and relieving the poor therein during the succeeding year, and to make up any deficiency in the fund raised for that purpose during the preceding year.

History: *RL s 1504 (3177)*

261.063 TAX LEVY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY MEASURES; DUTIES OF COUNTY BOARD.

The board of county commissioners of each county shall annually levy taxes and fix a rate sufficient to produce the full amount required for poor relief, general assistance, aid to dependent children, county share of county and state supplemental aid to supplemental security income applicants or recipients, and any other social security measures wherein there is now or may hereafter be county participation, sufficient to produce the full amount necessary for each such item, including administrative expenses, for the ensuing year, within the time fixed by law in addition to all other tax levies and tax rates, however fixed or determined, and any commissioner who shall fail to comply herewith shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be immediately removed from office by the governor.

History: *1937 c 304 s 1; 1973 c 380 s 9; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 24; 1973 c 717 s 23; 1974 c 487 s 9 (3177-1)*

261.064 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.065 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.066 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.067 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.07 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33; 1974 c 355 s 72]

261.08 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33; 1974 c 355 s 72]

261.09 [Repealed, 1971 c 65 s 2]

261.10 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33; 1974 c 355 s 72]

261.11 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.12 [Repealed, 1971 c 65 s 2]

261.123 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.124 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.125 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.126 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.13 [Repealed, 1971 c 65 s 2]

261.14 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.141 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.142 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.143 [Repealed, 1973 c 380 s 18; 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.15 [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

261.16 [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

261.17 [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

261.18 [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]

- 261.19** [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]
261.20 [Repealed, 1961 c 561 s 17]
261.201 [Repealed, 1971 c 132 s 2]
261.202 [Repealed, 1971 c 132 s 2]
261.203 [Repealed, 1971 c 132 s 2]
261.204 [Repealed, 1971 c 132 s 2]
261.205 [Repealed, 1971 c 132 s 2]
261.206 [Repealed, 1971 c 132 s 2]
261.207 [Repealed, 1971 c 132 s 2]
261.208 [Repealed, 1971 c 132 s 2]

261.21 HOSPITALIZATION FOR INDIGENT PERSONS.

Subdivision 1. The county board of any county in this state is hereby authorized to provide for the hospitalization in hospitals within the county or elsewhere of indigent residents of such county who are afflicted with a malady, injury, deformity, or ailment of a nature which can probably be remedied by hospitalization and who are unable financially to secure and pay for such hospitalization or, in the case of an unemancipated minor, whose parent, guardian, trustee, or other person having lawful custody of his person, as the case may be, is unable to secure or provide such hospitalization.

Subd. 2. An indigent person eligible to receive care under this section shall have free choice in the selection of a hospital for the delivery of medical care.

History: 1935 c 359 s 1; 1941 c 473 s 1; 1971 c 257 s 1; 1975 c 437 art 2 s 9; 1976 c 186 s 2 (3164-19)

261.22 APPLICATION FILED.

Subdivision 1. **Duties of officials.** When the existence of a case described in section 261.21 shall come to the notice of the sheriff, town clerk, health officer, public health nurse, peace officer, public official, or physician or surgeon it shall be his duty to, and any other person may, file with the auditor of the county of the residence of such indigent person requiring care an application for the hospitalization of such indigent person. Such application shall be made in such form as the county board of such county may prescribe, and shall contain the name, age, residence, and physical condition of the person sought to be hospitalized and shall contain also a full statement of his financial situation and of the persons, if any, legally charged with his care and support and such application shall be verified. The county board shall make a careful investigation of the matter in such manner as it shall deem advisable and expedient and it shall be the duty of any public official of any county, city or town of the residence of the person sought to be hospitalized to supply the county board on a request therefor all the information within his knowledge relative to the financial condition of the person sought to be hospitalized and of all persons, if any there be, who are legally liable for the support of such person. If after such investigation the county board shall be satisfied that the person on whose behalf the application is made is not financially able to provide himself with such hospitalization or in case of a minor, his parents, guardians, trustee, or other person having legal custody over him or legally responsible for his support and maintenance is not financially able to provide such hospitalization, then said county board shall direct the county physician or some other physician to make an examination of the person on whose behalf such application was made. Such physician shall make and file with the county board a verified report in writing setting forth the nature and history of the case and such other information as will likely aid in the medical and surgical treatment of the disease, malady, injury, deformity, or ailment affecting such person, and shall state in such report his opinion whether

or not the condition of such person can probably be remedied at a hospital. Such report shall be made in duplicate, one copy of which shall be filed with the county auditor and the other shall be transmitted to the hospital at which such afflicted person is hospitalized; such report shall also give any information the examining physician shall have or acquire relative to the financial ability of the afflicted person to pay for the hospitalization and treatment of his disease, malady, injury, deformity, or ailment, together with any other information such physician may deem helpful to the county board or the physician attending him.

Subd. 2. Duties of county board. If upon filing of the report and a full investigation of the application the county board shall be satisfied that the case is one which could be remedied by hospital treatment, that the afflicted person is financially unable to secure or provide the same for himself and that the persons legally charged with the support and maintenance of that person, if any there be, are financially unable to provide hospitalization, the county board may grant or approve the application. If the county board is not so satisfied, it may take additional testimony or make any further investigation it deems proper and it shall reject any application if it finds that the facts do not merit the expenditure of public money for the relief of the person. Upon approval of the application, the chairman of the county board shall arrange for the hospitalization of the person, in a hospital selected by the person to be hospitalized. If the county board shall find that the applicant or the person legally responsible for his support and maintenance is not able to pay in full but is able to pay in part for the hospitalization at the hospital, the county board may approve the application of the person on any terms of division of hospital charges and costs as it may deem equitable and just. The county board shall provide for transportation of the person to the hospital. When a physician certifies that an emergency exists in any case and that he believes that the person suffering is unable to pay for hospitalization, that person shall be admitted to any hospital he selects upon the order of the chairman of the county board or upon the order of the county commissioner of the district in which the alleged indigent person resides; and thereafter an investigation shall be made in the manner hereinbefore provided. When a physician certifies in a case of an injury or an emergency that immediate surgical or medical treatment is necessary, the patient shall forthwith be admitted to any hospital he selects for a period not to exceed 72 hours; and thereafter an investigation shall be certified and made in the manner provided in sections 261.21 to 261.23.

History: 1935 c 359 s 2; 1941 c 473 s 2; 1943 c 31 s 4; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1975 c 437 art 2 s 10; 1976 c 186 s 3 (3164-20)

261.23 COSTS OF HOSPITALIZATION.

The costs of hospitalization of such indigent persons exclusive of medical and surgical care and treatment shall not exceed in amount the full rates fixed and charged by the Minnesota general hospital under the provisions of sections 158.01 to 158.11 for the hospitalization of such indigent patients. Ninety percent of the cost of the hospitalization of indigent persons under the provisions of sections 261.21 to 261.232 shall be paid by the state and ten percent of the cost of hospitalization shall be paid by the county of the residence of such indigent persons at such times as may be provided for in such contract; and in case of an injury or emergency requiring immediate surgical or medical treatment, for a period not to exceed 72 hours, 90 percent of the cost shall be paid by the state and ten percent of the cost shall be paid by the county from which such patient, if indigent, is certified. If the county of residence of the patient is not the county in which the patient has legal settlement for the purposes of poor relief, then the county of residence may seek reimbursement from the county in which the patient has settlement for the purposes of poor relief for all costs it has necessarily incurred and paid in connection with the hospitalization of said patient.

History: 1935 c 359 s 3; 1941 c 473 s 3; 1943 c 31 s 5; 1975 c 437 art 2 s 11 (3164-21)

261.231 COUNTY BOARD MAY DELEGATE CERTAIN POWERS.

The county board of any county in this state is hereby authorized to delegate to the county welfare board of such county all the rights, powers, and duties conferred upon it by Laws 1941, Chapter 473, with reference to the hospitalization of indigent persons.

History: 1943 c 31 s 7

261.232 DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WELFARE.

The commissioner of public welfare shall promulgate rules and regulations to establish administrative and fiscal procedures for payment of the state share of the costs incurred by the counties under sections 261.21 to 261.231. The rules and regulations may include:

(a) procedures by which state liability for the costs of hospitalization of indigent persons may be deducted from county liability to the state under any other public assistance program authorized by law;

(b) procedures for processing claims of counties for reimbursement by the state for expenditures made by the counties for the hospitalization of indigent persons; and

(c) standards for eligibility and utilization of medical care.

History: 1975 c 437 art 2 s 12

261.233 [Repealed, 1977 c 453 s 28]

261.25 UNIFORM TRANSFER OF DEPENDENTS ACT.

Subject to the approval of the attorney general, as to form and legality, the commissioner of public welfare may enter into reciprocal agreements with agencies of other states regarding the interstate transportation of poor and indigent persons, and may arrange with the proper officials in this state for the acceptance, transfer, and support within this state of persons receiving public aid in other states in accordance with the terms of these agreements, provided that this state shall not, nor shall any county or other political subdivision of this state, be committed to the support of persons who are not in the opinion of the commissioner of public welfare entitled to public support by the laws of this state; provided further that determination of legal settlement in a county or other political subdivision of this state shall be made before authorization is granted for the return of an indigent person to this state.

History: 1955 c 250 s 1

261.251 INTERPRETATION.

Section 261.25 shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the laws of those states which enact it.

History: 1955 c 250 s 2

261.26 [Repealed, 1973 c 650 art 21 s 33]

261.27 CHILDREN PLACED IN FOSTER HOMES; LIABILITY FOR COST OF CARE.

When a child is found to be confronted with any social, physical or emotional problem which requires placement in foster care, other remedial care or treatment, whether within or away from his own home, or any other child welfare services as provided in section 393.07, and his parents are unable to pay for such care or such services, the costs shall be paid by the county welfare board of

the county of the child's legal settlement; provided that where there is a dispute as to the county of settlement, the county providing or arranging for such services shall pay for them pending final determination of the county of settlement. When the county welfare board providing the care or service is not the county of the child's legal settlement, it has a claim for recovery of costs upon the county where the child has settlement. For costs incurred to provide foster care or other treatment for delinquent children under the jurisdiction of the corrections board, the county welfare board has a claim for reimbursement from funds appropriated to the corrections board for foster care purposes.

History: *RL s 1502; 1949 c 420 s 4; 1959 c 480 s 5; 1973 c 654 s 15; 1975 c 271 s 6 (3175)*

261.28 SUBSIDY FOR ABORTIONS PROHIBITED.

No funds of this state or any subdivision thereof administered under this chapter shall be authorized for or in connection with any abortion that is not eligible for funding pursuant to section 256B.02, subdivision 8.

History: *1978 c 508 s 4*