

Health CHAPTER 144

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STATE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

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STATE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

144.01 [Repealed, 1977 c 305 s 46]

144.011 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

Subdivision 1. **Commissioner.** The department of health shall be under the control and supervision of the commissioner of health who shall be appointed by the governor under the provisions of section 15.06. The state board of health is abolished and all powers and duties of the board are transferred to the commissioner of health. The commissioner shall be selected without regard to political affiliation but with regard to ability and experience in matters of public health.

Subd. 2. **State health advisory task force.** The commissioner of health may appoint a state health advisory task force. If appointed, members of the task force shall be broadly representative of the licensed health professions and shall also include public members as defined by section 214.02. The task force shall expire, and the terms, compensation, and removal of members shall be as provided in section 15.059.

History: 1977 c 305 s 39; 1983 c 260 s 30

144.02 [Repealed, 1977 c 305 s 46]

144.03 [Repealed, 1977 c 305 s 46]

144.04 [Repealed, 1977 c 305 s 46]

144.05 GENERAL DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER; REPORTS.

The state commissioner of health shall have general authority as the state's official health agency and shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of an organized system of programs and services for protecting, maintaining, and

improving the health of the citizens. This authority shall include but not be limited to the following:

(a) Conduct studies and investigations, collect and analyze health and vital data, and identify and describe health problems;

(b) Plan, facilitate, coordinate, provide, and support the organization of services for the prevention and control of illness and disease and the limitation of disabilities resulting therefrom;

(c) Establish and enforce health standards for the protection and the promotion of the public's health such as quality of health services, reporting of disease, regulation of health facilities, environmental health hazards and manpower;

(d) Affect the quality of public health and general health care services by providing consultation and technical training for health professionals and paraprofessionals;

(e) Promote personal health by conducting general health education programs and disseminating health information;

(f) Coordinate and integrate local, state and federal programs and services affecting the public's health;

(g) Continually assess and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of health service systems and public health programming efforts in the state; and

(h) Advise the governor and legislature on matters relating to the public's health.

History: *RL s 2130; 1973 c 356 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45 (5339)*

144.051 DATA RELATING TO LICENSED AND REGISTERED PERSONS.

Subdivision 1. Purpose. The legislature finds that accurate information pertaining to the numbers, distribution and characteristics of health-related manpower is required in order that there exist an adequate information resource at the state level for purposes of making decisions pertaining to health manpower.

Subd. 2. Information system. The commissioner of health shall establish a system for the collection, analysis and reporting of data on individuals licensed or registered by the commissioner or the health-related licensing boards as defined in section 214.01, subdivision 2. Individuals licensed or registered by the commissioner or the health-related licensing boards shall provide information to the commissioner of health that he may, pursuant to section 144.052, require. The commissioner shall publish at least biennially, a report which indicates the type of information available and methods for requesting the information.

History: *1978 c 759 s 1*

144.052 USE OF DATA.

Subdivision 1. Rules. The commissioner, after consultation with the health-related licensing boards as defined in section 214.01, subdivision 2, shall promulgate rules in accordance with chapter 14 regarding the types of information collected and the forms used for collection. The types of information collected shall include licensure or registration status, name, address, birth date, sex, professional activity status, and educational background or similar information needed in order to make decisions pertaining to health manpower.

Subd. 2. Coordination with licensure renewal. In order that the collection of the information specified in this section not impose an unnecessary burden on the licensed or registered individual or require additional administrative cost to the state, the commissioner of health shall, whenever possible, collect the information at the

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time of the individual's licensure or registration renewal. The health-related licensing boards shall include the request for the information that the commissioner may require pursuant to subdivision 1 with the licensure renewal application materials, provided, however, that the collection of health manpower data by the commissioner shall not cause the licensing boards to incur additional costs or delays with regard to the license renewal process.

History: 1978 c 759 s 2; 1982 c 424 s 130

144.053 RESEARCH STUDIES CONFIDENTIAL.

Subdivision 1. All information, records of interviews, written reports, statements, notes, memoranda, or other data procured by the state commissioner of health, in connection with studies conducted by the state commissioner of health, or carried on by the said commissioner jointly with other persons, agencies or organizations, or procured by such other persons, agencies or organizations, for the purpose of reducing the morbidity or mortality from any cause or condition of health shall be confidential and shall be used solely for the purposes of medical or scientific research.

Subd. 2. Such information, records, reports, statements, notes, memoranda, or other data shall not be admissible as evidence in any action of any kind in any court or before any other tribunal, board, agency or person. Such information, records, reports, statements, notes, memoranda, or other data shall not be exhibited nor their contents disclosed in any way, in whole or in part, by any representative of the state commissioner of health, nor by any other person, except as may be necessary for the purpose of furthering the research project to which they relate. No person participating in such research project shall disclose, in any manner, the information so obtained except in strict conformity with such research project. No employee of said commissioner shall interview any patient named in any such report, nor a relative of any such patient, unless the consent of the attending physician and surgeon is first obtained.

Subd. 3. The furnishing of such information to the state commissioner of health or his authorized representative, or to any other cooperating agency in such research project, shall not subject any person, hospital, sanitarium, nursing home or other person or agency furnishing such information, to any action for damages or other relief.

Subd. 4. Any disclosure other than is provided for in this section, is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor and punishable as such.

History: 1955 c 769 s 1-4; 1976 c 173 s 31; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.055 HOME SAFETY PROGRAMS.

Subdivision 1. The state commissioner of health is authorized to develop and conduct by exhibit, demonstration and by health education or public health engineering activity, or by any other means or methods which the commissioner may determine to be suitable and practicable for the purpose, a program in home safety designed to prevent accidents and fatalities resulting therefrom. The commissioner shall cooperate with local and county boards of health, the Minnesota Safety Council, and other interested voluntary groups in its conduct of such programs.

Subd. 2. For the purpose of assisting local and county boards of health to develop community home safety programs and to conduct such surveys of safety hazards in municipalities and counties, the commissioner may loan or furnish

exhibit, demonstration, and educational materials, and may assign personnel for a limited period to such local and county boards of health.

History: 1957 c 290 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.06 STATE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION.

The state commissioner of health, hereinafter referred to as the commissioner, is hereby authorized to provide instruction and advice to expectant mothers and fathers during pregnancy and to mothers, fathers, and their infants after childbirth; and to employ such persons as may be necessary to carry out the requirements of sections 144.06 and 144.07. The instruction, advice, and care shall be given only to applicants residing within the state. No person receiving aid under sections 144.06, 144.07, and 144.09 shall for this reason be affected thereby in any civil or political rights, nor shall the person's identity be disclosed except upon written order of the commissioner.

History: 1921 c 392 s 1-3; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1981 c 31 s 2 (5340, 5341, 5342)

144.065 VENEREAL DISEASE TREATMENT CENTERS.

The state commissioner of health shall assist local health agencies and organizations throughout the state with the development and maintenance of services for the detection and treatment of venereal diseases. These services shall provide for diagnosis, treatment, case finding, investigation, and the dissemination of appropriate educational information. The state commissioner of health shall promulgate regulations relative to the composition of such services and shall establish a method of providing funds to local health agencies and organizations which offer such services. The state commissioner of health shall provide technical assistance to such agencies and organizations in accordance with the needs of the local area.

History: 1974 c 575 s 6; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.07 POWERS OF COMMISSIONER.

The commissioner may:

(1) make all reasonable rules and regulations necessary to carry into effect the provisions of sections 144.06, 144.07, and 144.09, and may amend, alter, or repeal such rules or regulations;

(2) accept private gifts for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of those sections;

(3) cooperate with agencies, whether city, state, federal, or private, which carry on work for maternal and infant hygiene;

(4) make investigations and recommendations for the purpose of improving maternity care;

(5) promote programs and services available in Minnesota for parents and families of victims of sudden infant death syndrome; and

(6) collect and report to the legislature the most current information regarding the frequency and causes of sudden infant death syndrome.

The commissioner shall include in his report to the legislature a statement of the operation of those sections.

History: 1921 c 392 s 4; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 637 s 1 (5343)

144.071 MERIT SYSTEM FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

The commissioner may establish a merit system for employees of county or municipal health departments or public health nursing services or health districts, and may promulgate rules and regulations governing the administration and operation thereof. In the establishment and administration of the merit system authorized by this section, the commissioner may utilize facilities and personnel of any state department or agency with the consent of such department or agency. The commissioner may also, by rule or regulation, cooperate with the federal government in any manner necessary to qualify for federal aid.

History: 1969 c 1073 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.072 IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENTS OF 1972.

Subdivision 1. Rules. The state commissioner of health shall implement by rule, pursuant to the administrative procedures act, those provisions of the social security amendments of 1972 (P. L. 92-603) required of state health agencies, including rules which:

(a) establish a plan, consistent with regulations prescribed by the secretary of health, education, and welfare, for the review by appropriate professional health personnel, of the appropriateness and quality of care and services furnished to recipients of medical assistance; and

(b) provide for the determination as to whether institutions and agencies meet the requirements for participation in the medical assistance program, and the certification that those requirements, including utilization review, are being met.

Subd. 2. Existing procedures. The policies and procedures, including survey forms, reporting forms, and other documents developed by the commissioner of health for the purpose of conducting the inspections of care required under Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, sections 456.600 to 456.614, in effect on March 1, 1984, have the force and effect of law and shall remain in effect and govern inspections of care until June 30, 1986, unless otherwise superseded by rules adopted by the commissioner of health.

History: 1973 c 717 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 641 s 10

144.0721 ASSESSMENTS OF CARE AND SERVICES TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner of health shall assess the appropriateness and quality of care and services furnished to private paying residents in nursing homes and boarding care homes that are certified for participation in the medical assistance program under United States Code, title 42, sections 1396-1396p. These assessments shall be conducted in accordance with section 144.072, with the exception of provisions requiring recommendations for changes in the level of care provided to the private paying residents.

Subd. 2. Access to data. With the exception of summary data, data on individuals that is collected, maintained, used, or disseminated by the commissioner of health under subdivision 1 is private data on individuals and shall not be disclosed to others except:

- (1) under section 13.05;
- (2) under a valid court order;

(3) to the nursing home or boarding care home in which the individual resided at the time the assessment was completed; or

(4) to the commissioner of human services.

History: 1984 c 641 s 11; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.073 USE OF DUPLICATING EQUIPMENT.

The state commissioner of health is authorized to maintain and operate mimeograph or similar type of stencil duplicating equipment in the Minneapolis office to expedite the issuance of communicable disease bulletins and public health information circulars to health officers and other public health workers.

History: 1957 c 274 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.074 FUNDS RECEIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES.

The state commissioner of health may receive and accept money, property, or services from any person, agency, or other source for any public health purpose within the scope of his statutory authority. All money so received is annually appropriated for those purposes in the manner and subject to the provisions of law applicable to appropriations of state funds.

History: 1975 c 310 s 9; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.0741 MS1980 [Expired]

144.0742 CONTRACTS FOR PROVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

The commissioner of health is authorized to enter into contractual agreements with any public or private entity for the provision of statutorily prescribed public health services by the department. The contracts shall specify the services to be provided and the amount and method of reimbursement therefor. Funds generated in a contractual agreement made pursuant to this section are appropriated to the department for purposes of providing the services specified in the contracts. All such contractual agreements shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 16B.

History: 1981 c 360 art 1 s 15; 1984 c 544 s 89

144.075 [Repealed, 1984 c 503 s 6]

144.076 MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC.

The state commissioner of health may establish, equip, and staff with his own members or volunteers from the healing arts, or may contract with a public or private nonprofit agency or organization to establish, equip, and staff a mobile unit, or units to travel in and around poverty stricken areas and Indian reservations of the state on a prescribed course and schedule for diagnostic and general health counseling, including counseling on and distribution of dietary information, to persons residing in such areas. For this purpose the state commissioner of health may purchase and equip suitable motor vehicles, and furnish a driver and such other personnel as the department deems necessary to effectively carry out the purposes for which these mobile units were established or may contract with a public or private nonprofit agency or organization to provide the service.

History: 1971 c 940 s 1; 1975 c 310 s 3; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.08 POWERS AND DUTIES OF HOTEL INSPECTORS AND AGENTS; INSPECTIONS AND REPORTS.

The department of health shall have and exercise all of the authority and perform all the duties imposed upon and vested in the state hotel inspector. With the advice and consent of the department of administration, the department of health shall appoint and fix the compensation of a hotel inspector and such other inspectors and agents as may be required for the efficient conduct of the duties hereby imposed. These inspectors, by order of the department of administration, may be required to inspect any or all food products subject to inspection by the department of agriculture and to investigate and report to such department violations of the pure food laws and the regulations of the department of agriculture pertaining thereto. The reports of these inspectors to the department of agriculture shall have the force and effect of reports made or required to be made by the inspectors of such department.

History: 1925 c 426 art 9 s 2; 1961 c 113 s 1 (53-34)

144.09 COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL AUTHORITIES.

The state of Minnesota, through its legislative authority:

(1) Accepts the provisions of any act of congress providing for cooperation between the government of the United States and the several states in public protection of maternity and infancy;

(2) Empowers and directs the commissioner to cooperate with the federal children's bureau to carry out the purposes of such acts; and

(3) Appoints the state treasurer as custodian of all moneys given to the state by the United States under the authority of such acts and such money shall be paid out in the manner provided by such acts for the purposes therein specified.

History: 1921 c 392 s 5; 1977 c 305 s 45 (5344)

144.10 FEDERAL AID FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES; CUSTODIAN OF FUND; PLAN OF OPERATION; LOCAL APPROPRIATIONS.

The state treasurer is hereby appointed as the custodian of all moneys received, or which may hereafter be received, by the state by reason of any federal aid granted for maternal and child welfare service and for public health services, including the purposes as declared in Public Law 725 enacted by the 79th Congress of the United States, Chapter 958-2d Session and all amendments thereto, which moneys shall be expended in accordance with the purposes expressed in the acts of congress granting such aid and solely in accordance with plans to be prepared by the state commissioner. The plans so to be prepared by the commissioner for maternal and child health service shall be approved by the United States children's bureau; and the plans of the commissioner for public health service shall be approved by the United States public health service. Such plans shall include the training of personnel for both state and local health work and conform with all the requirements governing federal aid for these purposes. Such plans shall be designed to secure for the state the maximum amount of federal aid which is possible to be secured on the basis of the available state, county, and local appropriations for such purposes. The commissioner shall make reports, which shall be in such form and contain such information as may be required by the United States children's bureau or the United States public health service, as the case may be; and comply with all the provisions, rules,

and regulations which may be prescribed by these federal authorities in order to secure the correction and verification of such reports.

History: *Ex 1936 c 70 s 1; 1947 c 485 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45 (5391-1)*

144.11 RULES AND REGULATIONS.

The commissioner may make such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of section 144.10 and alter, amend, suspend, or repeal any of such rules and regulations.

History: *Ex 1936 c 70 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45 (5391-2)*

144.12 REGULATION, ENFORCEMENT, LICENSES, FEES.

Subdivision 1. **Rules.** The commissioner may adopt reasonable rules pursuant to chapter 14 for the preservation of the public health. The rules shall not conflict with the charter or ordinance of a city of the first class upon the same subject. The commissioner may control, by rule, by requiring the taking out of licenses or permits, or by other appropriate means, any of the following matters:

(1) The manufacture into articles of commerce, other than food, of diseased, tainted, or decayed animal or vegetable matter;

(2) The business of scavenging and the disposal of sewage;

(3) The location of mortuaries and cemeteries and the removal and burial of the dead;

(4) The management of boarding places for infants and the treatment of infants in them;

(5) The pollution of streams and other waters and the distribution of water by persons for drinking or domestic use;

(6) The construction and equipment, in respect to sanitary conditions, of schools, hospitals, almshouses, prisons, and other public institutions, and of lodging houses and other public sleeping places kept for gain;

(7) The treatment, in hospitals and elsewhere, of persons suffering from communicable diseases, including all manner of venereal disease and infection, the disinfection and quarantine of persons and places in case of those diseases, and the reporting of sicknesses and deaths from them;

Neither the commissioner nor any local board of health nor director of public health may adopt any rule or regulation for the treatment in any penal or correctional institution of any person suffering from any communicable disease or venereal disease or infection, which requires the involuntary detention of any person after the expiration of his period of sentence to the penal or correctional institution, or after the expiration of the period to which the sentence may be reduced by good time allowance or by the lawful order of any judge or the department of corrections;

(8) The prevention of infant blindness and infection of the eyes of the newly born by the designation, from time to time, of one or more prophylactics to be used in those cases and in the manner that the commissioner directs, unless specifically objected to by a parent of the infant;

(9) The furnishing of vaccine matter; the assembling, during epidemics of smallpox, with other persons not vaccinated, but no rule of the board or of any public board or officer shall at any time compel the vaccination of a child, or exclude, except during epidemics of smallpox and when approved by the local board of education, a child from the public schools for the reason that the child has not been vaccinated; any person required to be vaccinated may select for that purpose any licensed physician and no rule shall require the vaccination of any child whose

physician certifies that by reason of his physical condition vaccination would be dangerous;

(10) The accumulation of filthy and unwholesome matter to the injury of the public health and its removal;

(11) The collection, recording, and reporting of vital statistics by public officers and the furnishing of information to them by physicians, undertakers, and others of births, deaths, causes of death, and other pertinent facts;

(12) The construction, equipment, and maintenance, in respect to sanitary conditions, of lumber camps, migratory or migrant labor camps, and other industrial camps;

(13) The general sanitation of tourist camps, summer hotels, and resorts in respect to water supplies, disposal of sewage, garbage, and other wastes and the prevention and control of communicable diseases; and, to that end, may prescribe the respective duties of county and local health officers; and all county and local boards of health shall make such investigations and reports and obey such directions as the commissioner may require or give and, under the supervision of the commissioner, enforce the regulations;

(14) Atmospheric pollution which may be injurious or detrimental to public health;

(15) Sources of radiation, and the handling, storage, transportation, use and disposal of radioactive isotopes and fissionable materials; and

(16) The establishment, operation and maintenance of all clinical laboratories not owned, or functioning as a component of a licensed hospital. These laboratories shall not include laboratories owned or operated by five or less licensed practitioners of the healing arts, unless otherwise provided by federal law or regulation, and in which these practitioners perform tests or procedures solely in connection with the treatment of their patients. Rules promulgated under the authority of this clause, which shall not take effect until federal legislation relating to the regulation and improvement of clinical laboratories has been enacted, may relate at least to minimum requirements for external and internal quality control, equipment, facility environment, personnel, administration and records. These rules may include the establishment of a fee schedule for clinical laboratory inspections. The provisions of this clause shall expire 30 days after the conclusion of any fiscal year in which the federal government pays for less than 45 percent of the cost of regulating clinical laboratories.

Subd. 2. The commissioner may regulate the general sanitation of mass gatherings by promulgation of rules in respect to, but not limited to, the following areas: water supply, disposal of sewage, garbage and other wastes, the prevention and control of communicable diseases, the furnishing of suitable and adequate sanitary accommodations, and all other reasonable and necessary precautions to protect and insure the health, comfort and safety of those in attendance. No permit, license, or other prior approval shall be required of the commissioner for a mass gathering. A "mass gathering" shall mean an actual or reasonably anticipated assembly of more than 1,500 persons which will continue, or may reasonably be expected to continue, for a period of more than ten consecutive hours and which is held in an open space or temporary structure especially constructed, erected or assembled for the gathering. For purposes of this subdivision, "mass gatherings" shall not include public gatherings sponsored by a political subdivision or a nonprofit organization.

Subd. 3. Applications for licenses or permits issued pursuant to this section shall be submitted with a fee prescribed by the commissioner pursuant to section

144.122. Licenses or permits shall expire and be renewed as prescribed by the commissioner pursuant to section 144.122.

History: *RL s 2131; 1917 c 345 s 1; 1923 c 227 s 1; 1951 c 537 s 1; 1953 c 134 s 1; 1957 c 361 s 1; 1975 c 310 s 4; 1975 c 351 s 1; 1977 c 66 s 10; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 406 s 1; 1983 c 359 s 9 (5345)*

144.121 X-RAY MACHINES AND FACILITIES USING RADIUM; FEES; PERIODIC INSPECTIONS.

Subdivision 1. The fee for the registration for x-ray machines and radium required to be registered under regulations adopted by the state commissioner of health pursuant to section 144.12, shall be in an amount prescribed by the commissioner pursuant to section 144.122. The first fee for registration shall be due on January 1, 1975. The registration shall expire and be renewed as prescribed by the commissioner pursuant to section 144.122.

Subd. 2. Periodic radiation safety inspections of the sources of ionizing radiation shall be made by the state commissioner of health. The frequency of safety inspections shall be prescribed by the commissioner on the basis of the frequency of use of the source of ionizing radiation; provided that each source shall be inspected at least once every four years.

History: *1974 c 81 s 1; 1975 c 310 s 35; 1977 c 305 s 45*

144.122 LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES.

The state commissioner of health, by rule and regulation, may prescribe reasonable procedures and fees for filing with the commissioner as prescribed by statute and for the issuance of original and renewal permits, licenses, registrations and certifications issued under his authority. The expiration dates of the various licenses, permits, registrations and certifications as prescribed by the rules and regulations shall be plainly marked thereon. Fees may include application and examination fees and a penalty fee for renewal applications submitted after the expiration date of the previously issued permit, license, registration, and certification. The commissioner may also prescribe, by rule and regulation, reduced fees for permits, licenses, registrations, and certifications when the application therefor is submitted during the last three months of the permit, license, registration, or certification period. Fees proposed to be prescribed in the rules and regulations shall be first approved by the department of finance. All fees proposed to be prescribed in rules and regulations shall be reasonable. The fees shall be in an amount so that the total fees collected by the commissioner will, where practical, approximate the cost to the commissioner in administering the program. All fees collected shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the general fund unless otherwise specifically appropriated by law for specific purposes.

History: *1974 c 471 s 1; 1975 c 310 s 36; 1977 c 305 s 45*

144.123 FEES FOR DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SERVICES; EXCEPTIONS.

Subdivision 1. Except for the limitation contained in this section, the commissioner of health shall charge a handling fee for each specimen submitted to the department of health for analysis for diagnostic purposes by any hospital, private laboratory, private clinic, or physician. No fee shall be charged to any entity which receives direct or indirect financial assistance from state or federal funds administered by the department of health, including any public health department, nonprofit community clinic, venereal disease clinic, family planning clinic, or similar entity.

The commissioner of health may establish by rule other exceptions to the handling fee as may be necessary to gather information for epidemiologic purposes. All fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of health shall promulgate rules, in accordance with chapter 14, which shall specify the amount of the handling fee prescribed in subdivision 1. The fee shall approximate the costs to the department of handling specimens including reporting, postage, specimen kit preparation, and overhead costs. The fee prescribed in subdivision 1 shall be \$1.50 per specimen until the commissioner promulgates rules pursuant to this subdivision.

History: 1979 c 49 s 1; 1982 c 424 s 130

144.125 TESTS OF INFANTS FOR INBORN METABOLIC ERRORS CAUSING MENTAL RETARDATION.

It is the duty of (1) the administrative officer or other person in charge of each institution caring for infants 28 days or less of age and (2) the person required in pursuance of the provisions of section 144.215, to register the birth of a child, to cause to have administered to every such infant or child in its or his care tests for phenylketonuria and other inborn errors of metabolism causing mental retardation in accordance with rules or regulations prescribed by the state commissioner of health. Testing and the recording and reporting of the results of such tests shall be performed at such times and in such manner as may be prescribed by the state commissioner of health. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any infant whose parents object thereto on the grounds that such tests and treatment conflict with their religious tenets and practices.

History: 1965 c 205 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 75

144.13 REGULATIONS, NOTICE PUBLISHED.

Three weeks published notice of such regulations, if of general application throughout the state, shall be given at the seat of government; if of local application only, as near such locality as practicable. Special rules applicable to particular cases shall be sufficiently noticed when posted in a conspicuous place upon or near the premises affected. Fines collected for violations of regulations adopted by the commissioner shall be paid into the state treasury; and of local boards and officers, into the county treasury.

History: RL s 2132; 1977 c 305 s 45 (5346)

144.14 QUARANTINE OF INTERSTATE CARRIERS.

When necessary the commissioner may establish and enforce a system of quarantine against the introduction into the state of any plague or other communicable disease by common carriers doing business across its borders. Its members, officers, and agents may board any conveyance used by such carriers to inspect the same and, if such conveyance be found infected, may detain the same and isolate and quarantine any or all persons found thereon, with their luggage, until all danger of communication of disease therefrom is removed.

History: RL s 2133; 1977 c 305 s 45 (5347)

144.145 FLUORIDATION OF MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIES.

For the purpose of promoting public health through prevention of tooth decay, the person, firm, corporation, or municipality having jurisdiction over a municipal

water supply, whether publicly or privately owned or operated, shall control the quantities of fluoride in the water so as to maintain a fluoride content prescribed by the state commissioner of health. In the manner provided by law, the state commissioner of health shall promulgate rules and regulations relating to the fluoridation of public water supplies which shall include, but not be limited to the following: (1) The means by which fluoride is controlled; (2) the methods of testing the fluoride content; and (3) the records to be kept relating to fluoridation. The state commissioner of health shall enforce the provisions of this section. In so doing he shall require the fluoridation of water in all municipal water supplies on or before January 1, 1970. The state commissioner of health shall not require the fluoridation of water in any municipal water supply where such water supply in the state of nature contains sufficient fluorides to conform with the rules and regulations of such commissioner.

History: 1967 c 603 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.146 TREATMENT OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS.

Subdivision 1. **Program.** The commissioner of health shall develop and conduct a program including medical care and hospital treatment for persons aged 21 or over who are suffering from cystic fibrosis.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1978 c 762 s 9]

History: 1975 c 409 s 1,2; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.15 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]

VITAL STATISTICS

144.151 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17; 1978 c 790 s 4]

Subd. 9. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17; 1978 c 790 s 4]

144.152 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.153 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.154 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.155 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.156 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.157 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.158 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.159 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.16 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]

144.161 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.162 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.163 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.164 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

- 144.165 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.166 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.167 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.168 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.169 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.17 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]
- 144.171 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.172 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.173 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.174 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.175 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
 - Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17; 1978 c 790 s 4]
 - Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1947 c 517 s 8; 1978 c 699 s 17]
 - Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
 - Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.176 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]

144.1761 ACCESS TO ADOPTION RECORDS.

Subdivision 1. **Request.** Whenever an adopted person requests the state registrar to disclose the information on the adopted person's original birth certificate, the state registrar shall act in accordance with the provisions of section 259.49.

- Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1982 c 584 s 6]
- Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1982 c 584 s 6]
- Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1982 c 584 s 6]
- Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1982 c 584 s 6]

History: 1977 c 181 s 3; 1982 c 584 s 1

- 144.177 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.178 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.18 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]
- 144.181 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.182 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.183 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.19 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]
- 144.191 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.20 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]
- 144.201 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.202 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.203 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.204 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.205 [Repealed, 1978 c 699 s 17]
- 144.21 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]

144.211 CITATION.

Sections 144.211 to 144.227 may be cited as the "vital statistics act".

History: 1978 c 699 s 1

144.212 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. As used in sections 144.211 to 144.227, the following terms have the meanings given:

Subd. 2. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of health.

Subd. 3. "File" means to present a vital record for registration.

Subd. 4. "Final disposition" means the burial, interment, cremation, removal from the state, or other authorized disposition of a dead body or dead fetus.

Subd. 5. "Registration" means the acceptance of a vital record for filing by a registrar of vital statistics.

Subd. 6. "State registrar" means the commissioner of health or his designee.

Subd. 7. "System of vital statistics" includes the registration, collection, preservation, amendment and certification of vital records, the collection of other reports required by sections 144.211 to 144.227, and related activities including the tabulation, analysis and publication of vital statistics.

Subd. 8. "Vital record" means certificates or reports of birth, death, marriage, dissolution and annulment, and data related thereto.

Subd. 9. "Vital statistics" means the data derived from certificates and reports of birth, death, fetal death, induced abortion, marriage, dissolution and annulment, and related reports.

Subd. 10. "Local registrar" means an individual designated under section 144.214, subdivision 1, to perform the duties of a local registrar.

Subd. 11. "Consent to disclosure" means an affidavit filed with the state registrar which sets forth the following information:

- (a) The current name and address of the affiant;
- (b) Any previous name by which the affiant was known;
- (c) The original and adopted names, if known, of the adopted child whose original birth certificate is to be disclosed;
- (d) The place and date of birth of the adopted child;
- (e) The biological relationship of the affiant to the adopted child; and
- (f) The affiant's consent to disclosure of the original unaltered birth certificate of the adopted child.

History: 1978 c 699 s 2

144.213 OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Subdivision 1. **Creation; state registrar.** The commissioner shall establish an office of vital statistics under the supervision of the state registrar. The commissioner shall furnish to local registrars the forms necessary for correct reporting of vital statistics, and shall instruct the local registrars in the collection and compilation of the data. The commissioner shall promulgate rules for the collection, filing, and registering of vital statistics information by state and local registrars, physicians, morticians, and others. Except as otherwise provided in sections 144.211 to 144.227, rules previously promulgated by the commissioner relating to the collection, filing and registering of vital statistics shall remain in effect until repealed, modified or superseded by a rule promulgated by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **General duties.** The state registrar shall coordinate the work of local registrars to maintain a statewide system of vital statistics. The state registrar is responsible for the administration and enforcement of sections 144.211 to 144.227, and shall supervise local registrars in the enforcement of sections 144.211 to 144.227 and the rules promulgated thereunder.

Subd. 3. **Record-keeping.** To preserve vital records the state registrar is authorized to prepare typewritten, photographic, electronic or other reproductions of original records and files in the office of vital statistics. The reproductions when certified by the state or local registrar shall be accepted as the original records.

History: 1978 c 699 s 3

144.214 LOCAL REGISTRARS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Subdivision 1. **Districts.** Each county of the state, the city of St. Paul, and the city of Minneapolis, shall constitute the 89 registration districts of the state. The local registrar in each county shall be the clerk of district court in that county. The local registrar in any city which maintains local registration of vital statistics shall be the health officer. In addition, the state registrar may establish registration districts on United States government reservations, and may appoint a local registrar for each registration district so established.

Subd. 2. **Failure of duty.** A local registrar who neglects or fails to discharge his duties as provided by sections 144.211 to 144.227 may be relieved of his duties as local registrar by the state registrar after notice and hearing. The state registrar may appoint a successor to serve as local registrar. If a local registrar fails to file or transmit birth or death certificates the state registrar shall obtain them by other means.

Subd. 3. **Duties.** The local registrar shall examine each certificate of birth and death received by him, pursuant to the rules of the commissioner. If the certificate is complete it shall be registered. The local registrar shall enforce the provisions of sections 144.211 to 144.227 and the rules promulgated thereunder within the registration district, and shall promptly report violations of the laws or rules to the state registrar.

Subd. 4. **Designated morticians.** The state registrar may designate licensed morticians to receive for filing certificates of death, to issue burial permits, and to issue permits for the transportation of dead bodies or dead fetuses within designated territory. The designated morticians shall perform duties as prescribed by rule of the commissioner.

History: 1978 c 699 s 4

144.215 BIRTH REGISTRATION.

Subdivision 1. A certificate of birth for each live birth which occurs in this state shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the birth occurred, within five days after the birth.

Subd. 2. The commissioner shall establish by rule an orderly mechanism for the registration of births including at least a designation for who must file the birth certificate, a procedure for registering births which occur in moving conveyances, and a provision governing the names of the parent or parents to be entered on the birth certificate.

Subd. 3. In any case in which paternity of a child is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, or upon compliance with the provisions of section 257.55, subdivision 1, clause (e), the name of the father shall be entered on the birth certificate. If the order of the court declares the name of the child, it shall also be entered on the birth certificate. If the order of the court does not declare the name of the child, or there is no court order, then upon the request of both parents in writing, the surname of the child shall be that of the father.

History: 1978 c 699 s 5; 1980 c 589 s 28

144.216 FOUNDLING REGISTRATION.

Subdivision 1. Whoever finds a live born infant of unknown parentage shall report within five days to the office of vital statistics such information as the commissioner may by rule require to identify the foundling.

Subd. 2. A report registered under subdivision 1 shall constitute the certificate of birth for the child. If the child is identified and a certificate of birth is found or obtained, the report registered under subdivision 1 shall be confidential pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 3, and shall not be disclosed except pursuant to court order.

History: 1978 c 699 s 6; 1981 c 311 s 39; 1982 c 545 s 24

144.217 DELAYED CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH.

Subdivision 1. **Evidence required for filing.** Before a delayed certificate of birth is registered, the person presenting the delayed certificate for registration shall offer evidence of the facts contained in the certificate, as required by the rules of the commissioner. In the absence of the evidence required, the delayed certificate shall not be registered.

Subd. 2. **Court petition.** If a delayed certificate of birth is rejected under subdivision 1, a person may petition the appropriate court for an order establishing a record of the date and place of the birth and the parentage of the person whose birth is to be registered. The petition shall state:

(a) That the person for whom a delayed certificate of birth is sought was born in this state;

(b) That no certificate of birth can be found in the office of the state or local registrar;

(c) That diligent efforts by the petitioner have failed to obtain the evidence required in subdivision 1;

(d) That the state registrar has refused to register a delayed certificate of birth; and

(e) Other information as may be required by the court.

Subd. 3. **Court order.** The court shall fix a time and place for a hearing on the petition and shall give the state registrar ten days notice of the hearing. The state registrar may appear and testify in the proceeding. If the court is satisfied from the evidence received at the hearing of the truth of the statements in the petition, the court shall order the registration of the delayed certificate.

Subd. 4. **Filing the order.** A certified copy of the order shall be filed with the state registrar, who shall forward a copy to the local registrar in the district of birth. Certified copies of the order shall be evidence of the truth of their contents and be admissible as birth certificates.

History: 1978 c 699 s 7

144.218 NEW CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH.

Subdivision 1. Upon receipt of a certified copy of an order, decree, or certificate of adoption, the state registrar shall register a supplementary certificate in the new name of the adopted person. The original certificate of birth and the certified copy are confidential pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 3, and shall not be disclosed except pursuant to court order or section 144.1761. A certified copy of the original birth certificate from which the registration number has been deleted and which has been marked "Not for Official Use," or the information contained on the original birth certificate, except for the registration number, shall be provided on

request to a parent who is named on the original birth certificate. Upon the receipt of a certified copy of a court order of annulment of adoption the state registrar shall restore the original certificate to its original place in the file.

Subd. 2. Adoption of foreign persons. In proceedings for the adoption of a person who was born in a foreign country, the court, upon evidence presented by the commissioner of human services from information secured at the port of entry, or upon evidence from other reliable sources, may make findings of fact as to the date and place of birth and parentage. Upon receipt of certified copies of the court findings and the order or decree of adoption, the state registrar shall register a birth certificate in the new name of the adopted person. The certified copies of the court findings and the order or decree of adoption are confidential, pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 3, and shall not be disclosed except pursuant to court order or section 144.1761. The birth certificate shall state the place of birth as specifically as possible, and that the certificate is not evidence of United States citizenship.

Subd. 3. Subsequent marriage of natural parents. If, in cases in which a certificate of birth has been registered pursuant to section 144.215 and the natural parents of the child marry after the birth of the child, a new certificate of birth shall be registered upon presentation of a certified copy of the marriage certificate of the natural parents, and either an acknowledgment or court adjudication of paternity. The information presented and the original certificate of birth are confidential, pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 3, and shall not be disclosed except pursuant to court order.

Subd. 4. Incomplete and incorrect certificates. If a court finds that a birth certificate is incomplete, inaccurate or false, it may order the registration of a new certificate, and shall set forth the correct information in the order. Upon receipt of the order the state registrar shall register a new certificate containing the findings of the court, and the prior certificate shall be confidential pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 3, and shall not be disclosed except pursuant to court order.

History: 1978 c 699 s 8; 1980 c 561 s 1; 1981 c 311 s 24; 1982 c 545 s 24; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.219 AMENDMENT OF VITAL RECORDS.

Upon the order of a court of this state, upon the request of a court of another state, or upon the filing of an acknowledgment of paternity with the state registrar or the appropriate court which is not disputed by the mother named on the original birth certificate within a reasonable time after being informed of the filing, a new birth certificate shall be registered consistent with the findings of the court or with the acknowledgment of paternity.

History: 1978 c 699 s 9

144.22 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]

144.221 DEATH REGISTRATION.

Subdivision 1. A death certificate for each death which occurs in the state shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the death occurred or with a mortician appointed pursuant to section 144.214, subdivision 4, within five days after death and prior to final disposition.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of health shall establish in rule an orderly mechanism for the registration of deaths including at least a designation for who must file the death certificate, a procedure for the registration of deaths in moving conveyances, and provision to include cause and certification of death and assurance of registration prior to final disposition.

Subd. 3. When circumstances suggest that a death has occurred although a dead body cannot be produced to confirm the fact of death, a death certificate shall not be registered until a court has adjudicated the fact of death. A certified copy of the court finding shall be attached to the death certificate when it is registered.

History: 1978 c 699 s 10

144.222 REPORTS OF FETAL OR INFANT DEATH.

Subdivision 1. Each fetal death which occurs in this state shall be reported within five days to the state registrar as prescribed by rule by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. Each infant death which is diagnosed as sudden infant death syndrome shall be reported promptly to the state registrar.

History: 1978 c 699 s 11; 1984 c 637 s 2

144.223 REPORT OF MARRIAGE.

Data relating to certificates of marriage registered shall be reported to the state registrar by the local registrars pursuant to the rules of the commissioner. The information necessary to compile the report shall be furnished by the applicant prior to the issuance of the marriage license. The report shall contain the following information:

A. Personal information on bride and groom:

1. Name;
2. Residence;
3. Date and place of birth;
4. Race;
5. If previously married, how terminated;
6. Signature of applicant and date signed.

B. Information concerning the marriage:

1. Date of marriage;
2. Place of marriage;
3. Civil or religious ceremony.

History: 1977 c 305 s 45; 1978 c 699 s 12

144.224 REPORTS OF DISSOLUTION AND ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE.

Each month the clerk of court shall forward to the commissioner of health the statistical report forms collected pursuant to section 144.695 during the preceding month. The report form shall include only the following information:

(a) name, date of birth, birthplace, residence, race, and educational attainment of the husband and wife;

(b) county of decree;

(c) date and type of decree;

(d) place and date of marriage;

(e) date of separation;

(f) number and ages of children of marriage;

(g) amount and status of maintenance and child support;

(h) custody of children;

(i) income of the parties;

- (j) length of separation and length of marriage; and
- (k) number of previous marriages and reasons for ending the previous marriages (death, dissolution, or annulment).

The commissioner may publish data collected under this section in summary form only. The statistical report form shall contain a statement that neither the report form, nor information contained in the form, shall be admissible in evidence in this or any subsequent proceeding.

History: 1978 c 699 s 13; 1984 c 534 s 1

144.225 DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION FROM VITAL RECORDS.

Subdivision 1. Except as otherwise provided for in this section and section 144.1761, information contained in vital records shall be public information. Physical access to vital records shall be subject to the supervision and regulation of state and local registrars and their employees pursuant to rules promulgated by the commissioner in order to protect vital records from loss, mutilation or destruction and to prevent improper disclosure of records which are confidential or private data on individuals, as defined in section 13.02, subdivisions 3 and 12.

Subd. 2. **Information about certain births.** Disclosure of information pertaining to the birth of a child to a woman who was not married to the child's father when the child was conceived nor when the child was born or information from which it can be ascertained, shall be made only to the guardian of the person, the person to whom the record pertains when the person is 18 years of age or older, a parent of the person born to a mother who was not married to the child's father when the child was conceived nor when the child was born as provided by section 144.218, subdivision 1, or upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction. The birth and death records of the commissioner of health shall be open to inspection by the commissioner of human services and it shall not be necessary for him to obtain an order of the court in order to inspect records or to secure certified copies of them.

Subd. 3. No person shall prepare or issue any certificate which purports to be an original, certified copy, or copy of a vital record except as authorized in sections 144.211 to 144.227 or the rules of the commissioner.

Subd. 4. The state registrar may permit persons performing medical research access to the information restricted in subdivision 2 if those persons agree in writing not to disclose private data on individuals.

Subd. 5. When a resident of another state is born or dies in this state, the state registrar shall send a report of the birth or death to the state of residence.

History: 1978 c 699 s 14; 1980 c 509 s 42; 1980 c 561 s 2; 1981 c 311 s 39; 1982 c 545 s 24; 1983 c 7 s 2; 1983 c 243 s 5 subd 2; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.226 FEES.

Subdivision 1. The fees for any of the following services shall be in an amount prescribed by rule of the commissioner:

(a) The issuance of a certified copy or certification of a vital record, or a certification that the record cannot be found, provided that a fee shall not be charged for any certified copy required for service in the armed forces or the Merchant Marine of the United States or required in the presentation of claims to the United States Veterans Administration of any state or territory of the United States, or for any copy requested by the commissioner of human services for the discharge of his duties relating to state wards. No fee shall be charged for verification of information requested by official agencies of this state, local governments in this state, or the federal government;

(b) The replacement of a birth certificate;

(c) The filing of a delayed registration of birth or death;

(d) The alteration, correction, or completion of any vital record, provided that no fee shall be charged for an alteration, correction, or completion requested within one year after the filing of the certificate; and

(e) The verification of information from or noncertified copies of vital records. Fees charged shall approximate the costs incurred in searching and copying the records. The fee shall be payable at time of application.

Subd. 2. Fees collected under this section by the state registrar shall be deposited to the general fund.

History: 1977 c 305 s 45; 1978 c 699 s 15; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.227 PENALTIES.

Subdivision 1. Whoever intentionally makes any false statement in a certificate, record, or report required to be filed under sections 144.211 to 144.227, or in an application for an amendment thereof, or in an application for a certified copy of a vital record, or who supplies false information intending that the information be used in the preparation of any report, record, certificate, or amendment thereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. Any person who, without lawful authority and with the intent to deceive, willfully and knowingly makes, counterfeits, alters, obtains, possesses, uses or sells any certificate, record or report required to be filed under sections 144.211 to 144.227, or a certified copy of a certificate, record or report, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

History: 1978 c 699 s 16

144.23-144.28 [Repealed, 1945 c 512 s 37]

HEALTH RECORDS AND REPORTS

144.29 HEALTH RECORDS; CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

It shall be the duty of every school nurse, school physician, school attendance officer, superintendent of schools, principal, teacher, and of the persons charged with the duty of compiling and keeping the school census records, to cause a permanent public health record to be kept for each child of school age. Such record shall be kept in such form that it may be transferred with the child to any school which the child shall attend within the state and transferred to the commissioner when the child ceases to attend school. It shall contain a record of such health matters as shall be prescribed by the commissioner, and of all mental and physical defects and handicaps which might permanently cripple or handicap the child. Nothing in sections 144.29 to 144.32 shall be construed to require any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing thereto to undergo a physical or medical examination or treatment. A copy shall be forwarded to the proper department of any state to which the child shall remove.

History: 1929 c 277 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45 (5356-1)

144.30 COPIES OF RECORDS EVIDENCE IN JUVENILE COURT.

When any child shall be brought into juvenile court the court shall request, and the custodian of the record shall furnish, a complete certified copy of such record to the court, which copy shall be received as evidence in the case; and no decision or

disposition of the pending matter shall be finally made until such record, if existing, shall be considered.

History: 1929 c 277 s 2 (5356-2)

144.31 [Repealed, 1969 c 1082 s 2]

144.32 FALSE STATEMENTS TO BE CAUSE FOR DISCHARGE.

Any intentionally false statement in such certificate and any act or omission of a superintendent or superior officer to connive at or permit the same shall be deemed good cause for summary discharge of the person at fault regardless of any contract.

History: 1929 c 277 s 4 (5356-4)

144.33 [Repealed, 1961 c 27 s 1]

144.335 ACCESS TO HEALTH RECORDS.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them:

(a) "Patient" means a natural person who has received health care services from a provider for treatment of a medical, psychiatric or mental condition, or a person he designates in writing as his representative. Except for minors who have received health care services pursuant to sections 144.341 to 144.347, in the case of a minor, "patient" includes a parent or guardian, or a person acting as a parent or guardian in the absence of a parent or guardian.

(b) "Provider" means (1) any person who furnishes health care services and is licensed to furnish the services pursuant to chapters 147, 148, 150A, 151 or 153; and (2) a health care facility licensed pursuant to chapters 144 or 144A.

Subd. 2. **Patient access.** Upon request a provider shall supply to a patient complete and current information possessed by that provider concerning any diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of the patient in terms and language the patient can reasonably be expected to understand.

Upon a patient's written request, a provider at a reasonable cost to the patient shall furnish to the patient: (a) copies of the patient's health record, including but not limited to laboratory reports, x-rays, prescriptions, and other technical information used in assessing the patient's health condition; (b) the pertinent portion of the record relating to a specific condition; or (c) a summary of the record.

If a provider, as defined in subdivision 1, clause (b) (1), reasonably determines that the information is detrimental to the physical or mental health of the patient, or is likely to cause the patient to harm himself or another, he may withhold the information from the patient. The information may be supplied to an appropriate third party or to another provider, as defined in subdivision 1, clause (b) (1). The provider or third party may release the information to the patient.

Subd. 3. **Provider transfers and loans.** A patient's health record, including but not limited to, laboratory reports, x-rays, prescriptions, and other technical information used in assessing the patient's condition, or the pertinent portion of the record relating to a specific condition, or a summary of the record, shall be furnished to another provider upon the written request of the patient. The written request shall specify the name of the provider to whom the health record is to be furnished. The provider who furnishes the health record or summary may retain a copy of the materials furnished. The patient shall be responsible for the reasonable costs of furnishing the information.

Subd. 4. **Additional patient rights.** The rights set forth in this section are in addition to the rights set forth in sections 144.651 and 144.652 and any other provision of law relating to the access of a patient to his health records.

History: 1977 c 380 s 1

144.336 REGISTRY OF PERSONS TYPED FOR HUMAN LEUKOCYTE ANTIGENS.

Subdivision 1. **Release restricted.** No person, including the state, a state agency, or a political subdivision, that maintains or operates a registry of the names of persons, their human leukocyte antigen types, and their willingness to be a tissue donor shall reveal the identity of the person or his human leukocyte antigen type without the person's consent. If the data are maintained by a governmental entity, the data are classified as private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12.

Subd. 2. **Duties.** Persons that maintain or operate a registry described in subdivision 1 have no responsibility for any search beyond their own records to identify potential donors for the benefit of any person seeking a tissue transplant and have no duty to encourage potential donors to assist persons seeking a tissue transplant, and are not liable for their failure to do so.

History: 1984 c 436 s 33

144.34 INVESTIGATION AND CONTROL OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

Any physician having under his professional care any person whom he believes to be suffering from poisoning from lead, phosphorus, arsenic, brass, silica dust, carbon monoxide gas, wood alcohol, or mercury, or their compounds, or from anthrax or from compressed-air illness or any other disease contracted as a result of the nature of the employment of such person shall within five days mail to the department of health a report stating the name, address, and occupation of such patient, the name, address, and business of his employer, the nature of the disease, and such other information as may reasonably be required by the department. The department shall prepare and furnish the physicians of this state suitable blanks for the reports herein required. No report made pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be admissible as evidence of the facts therein stated in any action at law or in any action under the workers' compensation act against any employer of such diseased person. The department of health is authorized to investigate and to make recommendations for the elimination or prevention of occupational diseases which have been reported to it, or which shall be reported to it, in accordance with the provisions of this section. The department is also authorized to study and provide advice in regard to conditions that may be suspected of causing occupational diseases. Information obtained upon investigations made in accordance with the provisions of this section shall not be admissible as evidence in any action at law to recover damages for personal injury or in any action under the workers' compensation act. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to interfere with or limit the powers of the department of labor and industry to make inspections of places of employment or issue orders for the protection of the health of the persons therein employed. When upon investigation the commissioner of health reaches a conclusion that a condition exists which is dangerous to the life and health of the workers in any industry or factory or other industrial institutions he shall file a report thereon with the department of labor and industry.

History: 1939 c 322; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1977 c 305 s 45 (4327-1)

**CONSENT OF MINORS FOR
HEALTH SERVICES**

144.341 LIVING APART FROM PARENTS AND MANAGING FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, CONSENT FOR SELF.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any minor who is living separate and apart from his parents or legal guardian, whether with or without the consent of a parent or guardian and regardless of the duration of such separate residence, and who is managing his own financial affairs, regardless of the source or extent of his income, may give effective consent to medical, dental, mental and other health services for himself, and the consent of no other person is required.

History: 1971 c 544 s 1

144.342 MARRIAGE OR GIVING BIRTH, CONSENT FOR HEALTH SERVICE FOR SELF OR CHILD.

Any minor who has been married or has borne a child may give effective consent to medical, mental, dental and other health services for his or her child, and for himself or herself, and the consent of no other person is required.

History: 1971 c 544 s 2

144.343 PREGNANCY, VENEREAL DISEASE, ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE, ABORTION.

Subdivision 1. **Minor's consent valid.** Any minor may give effective consent for medical, mental and other health services to determine the presence of or to treat pregnancy and conditions associated therewith, venereal disease, alcohol and other drug abuse, and the consent of no other person is required.

Subd. 2. **Notification concerning abortion.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 13.02, subdivision 8, no abortion operation shall be performed upon an unemancipated minor or upon a woman for whom a guardian or conservator has been appointed pursuant to sections 525.54 to 525.551 because of a finding of incompetency, until at least 48 hours after written notice of the pending operation has been delivered in the manner specified in subdivisions 2 to 4.

(a) The notice shall be addressed to the parent at his usual place of abode and delivered personally to the parent by the physician or his agent.

(b) In lieu of the delivery required by clause (a), notice shall be made by certified mail addressed to the parent at his usual place of abode with return receipt requested and restricted delivery to the addressee which means postal employee can only deliver the mail to the authorized addressee. Time of delivery shall be deemed to occur at 12 o'clock noon on the next day on which regular mail delivery takes place, subsequent to mailing.

Subd. 3. **Parent, abortion; definitions.** For purposes of this section, "parent" means both parents of the pregnant woman if they are both living, one parent of the pregnant woman if only one is living or if the second one cannot be located through reasonably diligent effort, or the guardian or conservator if the pregnant woman has one.

For purposes of this section, "abortion" means the use of any means to terminate the pregnancy of a woman known to be pregnant with knowledge that the termination with those means will, with reasonable likelihood, cause the death of the fetus and "fetus" means any individual human organism from fertilization until birth.

Subd. 4. **Limitations.** No notice shall be required under this section if:

(a) The attending physician certifies in the pregnant woman's medical record that the abortion is necessary to prevent the woman's death and there is insufficient time to provide the required notice; or

(b) The abortion is authorized in writing by the person or persons who are entitled to notice; or

(c) The pregnant minor woman declares that she is a victim of sexual abuse, neglect, or physical abuse as defined in section 626.556. Notice of that declaration shall be made to the proper authorities as provided in section 626.556, subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. Penalty. Performance of an abortion in violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor and shall be grounds for a civil action by a person wrongfully denied notification. A person shall not be held liable under this section if the person establishes by written evidence that the person relied upon evidence sufficient to convince a careful and prudent person that the representations of the pregnant woman regarding information necessary to comply with this section are bona fide and true, or if the person has attempted with reasonable diligence to deliver notice, but has been unable to do so.

Subd. 6. Substitute notification provisions. If subdivision 2 of this law is ever temporarily or permanently restrained or enjoined by judicial order, subdivision 2 shall be enforced as though the following paragraph were incorporated as paragraph (c) of that subdivision; provided, however, that if such temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction is ever stayed or dissolved, or otherwise ceases to have effect, subdivision 2 shall have full force and effect, without being modified by the addition of the following substitute paragraph which shall have no force or effect until or unless an injunction or restraining order is again in effect.

(c)(i) If such a pregnant woman elects not to allow the notification of one or both of her parents or guardian or conservator, any judge of a court of competent jurisdiction shall, upon petition, or motion, and after an appropriate hearing, authorize a physician to perform the abortion if said judge determines that the pregnant woman is mature and capable of giving informed consent to the proposed abortion. If said judge determines that the pregnant woman is not mature, or if the pregnant woman does not claim to be mature, the judge shall determine whether the performance of an abortion upon her without notification of her parents, guardian, or conservator would be in her best interests and shall authorize a physician to perform the abortion without such notification if said judge concludes that the pregnant woman's best interests would be served thereby.

(ii) Such a pregnant woman may participate in proceedings in the court on her own behalf, and the court may appoint a guardian ad litem for her. The court shall, however, advise her that she has a right to court appointed counsel, and shall, upon her request, provide her with such counsel.

(iii) Proceedings in the court under this section shall be confidential and shall be given such precedence over other pending matters so that the court may reach a decision promptly and without delay so as to serve the best interests of the pregnant woman. A judge of the court who conducts proceedings under this section shall make in writing specific factual findings and legal conclusions supporting his decision and shall order a record of the evidence to be maintained including his own findings and conclusions.

(iv) An expedited confidential appeal shall be available to any such pregnant woman for whom the court denies an order authorizing an abortion without notification. An order authorizing an abortion without notification shall not be subject to appeal. No filing fees shall be required of any such pregnant woman at either the trial or the appellate level. Access to the trial court for the purposes of such a petition or motion, and access to the appellate courts for purposes of making

an appeal from denial of the same, shall be afforded such a pregnant woman 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Subd. 7. **Severability.** If any provision, word, phrase or clause of this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions, words, phrases, clauses or application of this section which can be given effect without the invalid provision, word, phrase, clause, or application, and to this end the provisions, words, phrases, and clauses of this section are declared to be severable.

History: 1971 c 544 s 3; 1981 c 228 s 1; 1981 c 311 s 39; 1982 c 545 s 24

144.344 EMERGENCY TREATMENT.

Medical, dental, mental and other health services may be rendered to minors of any age without the consent of a parent or legal guardian when, in the professional's judgment, the risk to the minor's life or health is of such a nature that treatment should be given without delay and the requirement of consent would result in delay or denial of treatment.

History: 1971 c 544 s 4

144.345 REPRESENTATIONS TO PERSONS RENDERING SERVICE.

The consent of a minor who represents that he may give effective consent for the purpose of receiving medical, dental, mental or other health services but who may not in fact do so, shall be deemed effective without the consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian, if the person rendering the service relied in good faith upon the representations of the minor.

History: 1971 c 544 s 5

144.346 INFORMATION TO PARENTS.

The professional may inform the parent or legal guardian of the minor patient of any treatment given or needed where, in the judgment of the professional, failure to inform the parent or guardian would seriously jeopardize the health of the minor patient.

History: 1971 c 544 s 6

144.347 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

A minor so consenting for such health services shall thereby assume financial responsibility for the cost of said services.

History: 1971 c 544 s 7

WATER POLLUTION

144.35 POLLUTION OF WATER.

No sewage or other matter that will impair the healthfulness of water shall be deposited where it will fall or drain into any pond or stream used as a source of water supply for domestic use. The commissioner shall have general charge of all springs, wells, ponds, and streams so used and take all necessary and proper steps to preserve the same from such pollution as may endanger the public health. In case of violation of any of the provisions of this section, the commissioner may, with or without a hearing, order any person to desist from causing such pollution and to comply with such direction of the commissioner as he may deem proper and

expedient in the premises. Such order shall be served forthwith upon the person found to have violated such provisions.

History: *RL s 2147; 1977 c 305 s 45 (5375)*

144.36 APPEAL TO DISTRICT COURT.

Within five days after service of the order, any person aggrieved thereby may appeal to the district court of the county in which such polluted source of water supply is situated; and such appeal shall be taken, prosecuted, and determined in the same manner as provided in section 145.19. During the pendency of the appeal the pollution against which the order has been issued shall not be continued and, upon violation of such order, the appeal shall forthwith be dismissed.

History: *RL s 2148 (5376)*

144.37 OTHER REMEDIES PRESERVED.

Nothing in sections 144.36 and 145.17 shall curtail the power of the courts to administer the usual legal and equitable remedies in cases of nuisances or of improper interference with private rights.

History: *RL s 2149 (5377)*

- 144.371** [Renumbered 115.01]
- 144.372** [Renumbered 115.02]
- 144.373** [Renumbered 115.03]
- 144.374** [Renumbered 115.04]
- 144.375** [Renumbered 115.05]
- 144.376** [Renumbered 115.06]
- 144.377** [Renumbered 115.07]
- 144.378** [Renumbered 115.08]
- 144.379** [Renumbered 115.09]
- 144.38** [Repealed, 1967 c 882 s 11]

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

144.381 CITATION.

Sections 144.381 to 144.387 may be cited as the "Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977".

History: *1977 c 66 s 1*

144.382 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of sections 144.381 to 144.387, the following terms have the meanings given.

Subd. 2. "Commissioner" means the state commissioner of health.

Subd. 3. "Federal regulations" means rules promulgated by the federal environmental protection agency, or its successor agencies.

Subd. 4. "Public water supply" means a system providing piped water for human consumption, and either containing a minimum of 15 service connections or 15 living units, or serving an average of 25 persons daily for 60 days of the year. "Public water supply" includes a collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facility under control of an operator and used primarily in connection with the

system, and a collection or pretreatment storage facility used primarily in connection with the system but not under control of an operator.

Subd. 5. "Supplier" means a person who owns, manages or operates a public water supply.

History: 1977 c 66 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.383 AUTHORITY OF COMMISSIONER.

In order to insure safe drinking water in all public water supplies, the commissioner has the following powers:

(a) To approve the site, design, and construction and alteration of public water supply;

(b) To enter the premises of a public water supply, or part thereof, to inspect the facilities and records kept pursuant to rules promulgated by the commissioner, to conduct sanitary surveys and investigate the standard of operation and service delivered by public water supplies;

(c) To contract with local boards of health, created pursuant to section 145.913, for routine surveys, inspections, and testing of public water supply quality;

(d) To develop an emergency plan to protect the public when a decline in water quality or quantity creates a serious health risk, and to issue emergency orders if a health risk is imminent;

(e) To promulgate rules, pursuant to chapter 14 but no less stringent than federal regulation, which may include the granting of variances and exemptions.

History: 1977 c 66 s 3; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1982 c 424 s 130

144.384 NOTICE OF VIOLATION.

Upon discovery of a violation of a maximum contaminant level or treatment technique, the commissioner shall promptly notify the supplier of the violation, state the rule violated, and state a date by which the violation must be corrected or by which a request for variance or exemption must be submitted.

History: 1977 c 66 s 4; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.385 PUBLIC NOTICE.

If a public water system has violated a rule of the commissioner, has a variance or exemption granted, or fails to comply with the terms of the variance or exemption, the supplier shall provide public notice of the fact pursuant to the rules of the commissioner.

History: 1977 c 66 s 5; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.386 PENALTIES.

Subdivision 1. A person who violates a rule of the commissioner, fails to comply with the terms of a variance or exemption, or fails to request a variance or exemption by the date specified in the notice from the commissioner, may be fined up to \$1,000 for each day the offense continues, in a civil action brought by the commissioner in district court. All fines shall be deposited in the general fund of the state treasury.

Subd. 2. A person who intentionally or repeatedly violates a rule of the commissioner, or fails to comply with an emergency order of the commissioner, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and may be fined not more than \$10,000, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

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Subd. 3. A supplier who fails to comply with the provisions of section 144.385, or disseminates false or misleading information relating to the notice required in section 144.385, is subject to the penalties described in subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. In addition to other remedies, the commissioner may institute an action to enjoin further violations of sections 144.381 to 144.385.

History: 1977 c 66 s 6; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 628 art 3 s 11

144.387 COSTS.

If the state prevails in any civil action under section 144.386, the court may award reasonable costs and expenses to the state.

History: 1977 c 66 s 7

144.388 EXPIRATION.

The provisions of sections 144.381 to 144.387 shall expire 30 days after the conclusion of any fiscal year in which the federal government pays for less than 40 percent of the cost of administering sections 144.381 to 144.387.

History: 1977 c 66 s 8

144.39 [Repealed, 1967 c 882 s 11]

144.40 [Repealed, 1967 c 882 s 11]

144.41 [Repealed, 1967 c 882 s 11]

SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

144.411 CITATION.

Sections 144.411 to 144.417 may be cited as the Minnesota clean indoor air act.

History: 1975 c 211 s 1

144.412 PUBLIC POLICY.

The purpose of sections 144.411 to 144.417 is to protect the public health, comfort and environment by prohibiting smoking in public places and at public meetings except in designated smoking areas.

History: 1975 c 211 s 2

144.413 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. As used in sections 144.411 to 144.416, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Public place" means any enclosed, indoor area used by the general public or serving as a place of work, including, but not limited to, restaurants, retail stores, offices and other commercial establishments, public conveyances, educational facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, auditoriums, arenas and meeting rooms, but excluding private, enclosed offices occupied exclusively by smokers even though such offices may be visited by nonsmokers.

Subd. 3. "Public meeting" includes all meetings open to the public pursuant to section 471.705, subdivision 1.

Subd. 4. "Smoking" includes carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted smoking equipment.

History: 1975 c 211 s 3

144.414 PROHIBITIONS.

No person shall smoke in a public place or at a public meeting except in designated smoking areas. This prohibition does not apply in cases in which an entire room or hall is used for a private social function and seating arrangements are under the control of the sponsor of the function and not of the proprietor or person in charge of the place. Furthermore, this prohibition shall not apply to factories, warehouses and similar places of work not usually frequented by the general public, except that the state commissioner of health shall establish rules to restrict or prohibit smoking in those places of work where the close proximity of workers or the inadequacy of ventilation causes smoke pollution detrimental to the health and comfort of nonsmoking employees.

History: 1975 c 211 s 4; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 654 art 2 s 113

144.415 DESIGNATION OF SMOKING AREAS.

Smoking areas may be designated by proprietors or other persons in charge of public places, except in places in which smoking is prohibited by the fire marshal or by other law, ordinance or regulation.

Where smoking areas are designated, existing physical barriers and ventilation systems shall be used to minimize the toxic effect of smoke in adjacent nonsmoking areas. In the case of public places consisting of a single room, the provisions of this law shall be considered met if one side of the room is reserved and posted as a no-smoking area. No public place other than a bar shall be designated as a smoking area in its entirety. If a bar is designated as a smoking area in its entirety, this designation shall be posted conspicuously on all entrances normally used by the public.

History: 1975 c 211 s 5

144.416 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROPRIETORS.

The proprietor or other person in charge of a public place shall make reasonable efforts to prevent smoking in the public place by

- (a) posting appropriate signs;
- (b) arranging seating to provide a smoke-free area;
- (c) asking smokers to refrain from smoking upon request of a client or employee suffering discomfort from the smoke; or
- (d) any other means which may be appropriate.

History: 1975 c 211 s 6

144.417 COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, ENFORCEMENT, PENALTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Rules and regulations.** The state commissioner of health shall adopt rules and regulations necessary and reasonable to implement the provisions of sections 144.411 to 144.417, except as provided for in section 144.414.

The state commissioner of health may, upon request, waive the provisions of sections 144.411 to 144.417 if he determines there are compelling reasons to do so and a waiver will not significantly affect the health and comfort of nonsmokers.

Subd. 2. **Penalties.** Any person who violates section 144.414 is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

Subd. 3. **Injunction.** The state commissioner of health, a local board of health, or any affected party may institute an action in any court with jurisdiction to enjoin repeated violations of section 144.416.

History: 1975 c 211 s 7; 1977 c 305 s 45

TUBERCULOSIS

144.42 [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

144.421 [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

144.422 TUBERCULOSIS SUSPECTS.

Subdivision 1. **Patient defined.** The word "patient" as used in subdivisions 1 to 7, means any person suspected of being afflicted with tuberculosis in the infectious stage.

Subd. 2. **Reports of suspects.** Any health officer who has information that a patient does by his conduct or mode of living, endanger the health and well-being of his family or other persons, may make a report thereof to the county board of the county in which the patient resides or is found. The report shall state the name and address of the patient and a summary of the health officer's information. If upon the examination of the report the county board shall have reasonable cause to believe that the patient is infected with tuberculosis in the infectious stage and does by his conduct or mode of living, endanger the health and well-being of his family or other persons it shall so find, and may by resolution direct that the patient be committed to the public hospital designated in the resolution where the patient shall remain until discharged by the chief medical officer of the hospital. A copy of the resolution shall be served upon the patient in the manner of service of a summons in a civil action. If the patient refuses to enter the hospital, a copy of the resolution with the findings and with proof of the service aforesaid, certified to by the county auditor, shall be filed with the clerk of the district court of the county in which the proceedings were held, and upon presentation thereof to a judge of the court, the judge shall order the sheriff or other person to apprehend the patient and deliver him to the chief medical officer of the hospital designated in the resolution.

Subd. 3. **Health officer party to proceedings; appeals.** The health officer making the report referred to in subdivision 2, and his successor in office, shall be deemed a party to all proceedings had in connection therewith. Any party aggrieved by the resolution of the county board in committing or refusing to commit the patient, may appeal therefrom to said district court. If an appeal is taken by the health officer, the notice of appeal shall be served upon the patient and filed with the county auditor with proof of such service, within 20 days after the adoption of said resolution. If an appeal is taken by the patient, the notice of appeal shall be filed with the county auditor within 20 days after the service of a copy of said resolution as provided for in subdivision 2, but such appeal shall not stay the commitment unless a stay is granted by order of court.

Subd. 4. **Papers filed with clerk of district court.** Within five days after receipt of the notice of appeal, the county auditor shall certify and file with the clerk of said court a copy of the health officer's report, a transcript of the proceedings had by the county board thereon, and a copy of the notice of appeal showing the date of the filing of same in his office, together with the required proofs of service.

Subd. 5. **Hearing appeal; determination.** Upon three days notice to the adverse party the court shall set a date for hearing the appeal, which hearing may be had at any general or special term of court, or by the court in chambers; and the court may, if it deems advisable, appoint three duly licensed doctors of medicine as a

board to examine the patient to determine whether or not he is afflicted with tuberculosis in the infectious stage. The patient shall be entitled to have his physician present at the time of the examination. The board so appointed shall examine the patient at the time and place designated by the court and shall make a written report of its findings. If said findings are positive, at least one of such examiners shall appear at the hearing and give testimony. The court shall summarily hear and determine said appeal, and at the trial thereof all technicalities and matters of form not affecting substantial merits shall be disregarded.

Subd. 6. Findings, commitment. If the patient is found to be afflicted with tuberculosis in the infectious stage and the court finds that the patient does by conduct or mode of living, endanger the health and well-being of his family or other persons, and finds and determines it to be for the best interests of the patient, his family or the public, the court shall issue to the sheriff a warrant, in duplicate, committing the patient to the custody of the chief medical officer of the public hospital named in its findings and determination, where the patient shall remain until discharged therefrom by the chief medical officer when his discharge will not endanger the health of any other person, or by the court upon petition of the patient. The court may, upon consent of the commissioner of human services, order the patient confined at a place the commissioner may designate until the commissioner determines the patient may be safely cared for at the hospital named in the court's findings or may be discharged. The commissioner of human services may transfer the patient to the hospital, and at any time prior to the patient's discharge the commissioner, upon request of the officer in charge of the hospital, may return the patient to the place designated by the commissioner.

Subd. 7. Health officer may petition for commitment. Any health officer who has the information referred to in subdivision 2, may file in the district court of the county in which the patient resides or is found, a petition for commitment of the patient to a public hospital, setting forth the name and address of the patient and the reasons for the petition. Upon filing, the petition proceedings shall be conducted as provided for in subdivisions 5 and 6. In such cases reference in those subdivisions to "adverse party" shall be understood as referring to the patient, and reference to "appeal" as referring to the petition.

Subd. 8. County attorney as attorney for health officer. In all proceedings had under the provisions of subdivisions 3 to 7, the county attorney shall be the attorney for the health officer.

Subd. 9. Expenses and cost, payment. The expense of the proceedings under the provisions of subdivisions 1 to 7, and the cost of the care, treatment and maintenance furnished to the committed person, is a charge against the county of his residence. If the person resided in the state throughout the year preceding commitment under the provisions of those subdivisions, exclusive of the time spent in a hospital, but did not reside continuously in any one county during that time, then the cost of the person's care, treatment and maintenance shall be paid by the county in which the person resided longest during the year preceding commitment. If the person did not reside in the state throughout the year preceding commitment, exclusive of the time spent in a hospital, then the person's care, treatment and maintenance shall be provided at a place the commissioner may designate, and the county of commitment shall pay an amount not to exceed 20 percent of the cost of care. The county in which the person is present at the time of commitment shall conduct an investigation of the person's residence and financial circumstances and shall submit information from the investigation to the commissioner of human services within one month of the date of commitment.

Subd. 10. Liability of patient for expenses and cost. Any patient committed under the provisions of subdivisions 1 to 7, who at the time of his commitment has

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financial ability to pay, or who prior to his discharge shall become financially able to pay, shall be liable for the cost of his care, treatment and maintenance to the county paying the same, or to the commissioner of human services, as the case may be.

History: 1951 c 314 s 1-5; 1955 c 479 s 1; 1957 c 317 s 1; 1957 c 654 s 1; 1963 c 703 s 1; 1967 c 34 s 1,2; 1980 c 357 s 1-4; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

NOTE: Laws 1959, Chapter 297, Section 6, applying to Hennepin County, reads: "Minnesota Statutes 1957, Sections 376.28 to 376.42, Section 144.422 and Section 144.424 are amended to conform with the provisions of this act."

144.423 [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

144.424 REGULATIONS; VIOLATIONS; RELEASE.

Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

Subd. 8. Any person entering any hospital for tuberculous care and treatment under the provisions of any law of this state, shall observe all regulations of the hospital. When any person fails to obey the regulations, that person may be placed and confined in quarters apart from the other patients. Any person admitted upon application to any hospital who is afflicted with tuberculosis in the infectious stage, and who repeatedly violates regulations or attempts or threatens to leave the hospital without the consent of the chief medical officer, may be restrained by reasonable force, if necessary, and the chief medical officer may institute proceedings to commit the person as a public health menace under the provisions of section 144.422, subdivisions 1 to 7. In such cases the chief medical officer shall have all the powers of sections 144.422, 144.424 and 144.425 vested in health officers.

Subd. 9. Any person who is confined to any sanatorium or hospital for tuberculous care and treatment, whether committed under the provisions of section 144.422, subdivisions 1 to 7, or entering the same voluntarily, and who is refused discharge upon written demand to the chief medical officer, may petition the district court of the county in which the hospital is located for an order directing his release, and if it appears to the court after a trial on the merits that the patient is not afflicted with tuberculosis in the infectious stage and has progressed in the cure of the disease to a point when his release will not endanger the health and well-being of his family or other persons, the court may direct release. Such petition shall not be renewed oftener than once every six months.

Subd. 10. [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

Subd. 11. If any person committed under the provisions of section 144.422, subdivisions 1 to 7, wilfully violates any regulation adopted pursuant to subdivision 10, or leaves a hospital without consent of the officer in charge, the chief medical officer of the hospital may file an affidavit with the committing court setting forth these facts. Upon such notice and hearing as the court may order and upon consent of the commissioner of human services, the court may amend its commitment and order the person to be confined in a place the commissioner designates.

History: 1949 c 471 s 3; 1951 c 314 s 6; 1957 c 317 s 2,3; 1967 c 34 s 3; 1980 c 357 s 5-7; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

NOTE: Laws 1959, chapter 297, section 6, applying to Hennepin County reads: "Minnesota Statutes 1957, sections 376.28 to 376.42, section 144.422 and section 144.424 are amended to conform with the provisions of this act."

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144.425 PATIENTS; FACILITIES, TRANSFER.

The commissioner of human services shall arrange appropriate medical care for any patient who contracts tuberculosis at a state-operated hospital or nursing home. The cost of the care including transportation costs shall be paid from appropriations to the commissioner for state-operated hospitals and nursing homes.

History: 1949 c 471 s 4; 1951 c 314 s 7; 1955 c 780 s 1; 1957 c 317 s 4; 1961 c 750 s 1; 1963 c 703 s 2; 1967 c 34 s 4; 1980 c 357 s 8; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.426 [Repealed, 1951 c 314 s 8]

144.427 [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

144.428 [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

144.429 [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

144.43 [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

144.44 [Renumbered 144.423]

144.45 TUBERCULOSIS IN SCHOOLS; CERTIFICATE.

No person with active tuberculosis shall remain in or near a school building unless the person has a certificate issued by a physician stating that the person's presence in a school building will not endanger the health of other people.

History: 1913 c 434 s 4; 1949 c 471 s 10; 1980 c 357 s 9 (5384)

NOTE: See also section 123.69.

144.46 [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

144.47 [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

144.471 LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH; DUTIES.

When any person having tuberculosis is not attended by any physician or when the physician attending any such person fails to perform any duty required of him by any provision of sections 144.424 to 144.47, the duties required to be so performed by any such physician shall be performed by the local board of health.

History: 1949 c 471 s 13; 1980 c 357 s 10

144.48 [Renumbered 144.427]

144.49 VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES.

Subdivision 1. Any person violating any regulation of the commissioner or any lawful direction of a board of health or a health officer is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1979 c 50 s 14]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1979 c 50 s 14]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1979 c 50 s 14]

Subd. 5. Any person violating any of the provisions of sections 144.424 to 144.47 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 6. Any person, partnership, association, or corporation establishing, conducting, managing, or operating any hospital, sanatorium, or other institution in accordance with the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.56, without first obtaining a license therefor is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 7. Any person, partnership, association, or corporation which establishes, conducts, manages or operates any hospital, sanatorium or other institution

required to be licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.56, in violation of any provision of sections 144.50 to 144.56 or any regulation established thereunder, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Subd. 8. Any person lawfully engaged in the practice of healing who wilfully makes any false statement in any report required to be made by him pursuant to sections 144.424 to 144.47 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: *RL s 2132; 1913 c 434 s 8; 1913 c 579; 1917 c 220 s 6; 1939 c 89 s 1; 1941 c 549 s 10; 1943 c 649 s 1; 1945 c 512 s 35,37; 1949 c 471 s 14; 1976 c 173 s 32,33; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1980 c 357 s 11,12 (5346, 5356, 5367, 5388)*

FORMALDEHYDE GASES IN BUILDING MATERIALS

144.495 FORMALDEHYDE RULES.

Within 30 days after April 24, 1980 the commissioner of health shall determine if a significant health problem is presented by the use of building materials that emit formaldehyde gases. If he determines that such a problem exists he shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 14, including emergency rules, establishing standards governing the sale of building materials and housing units that contain products made with urea formaldehyde.

History: *1980 c 594 s 1; 1982 c 424 s 130*

HOSPITALIZATION

144.50 HOSPITALS, LICENSES; DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. No person, partnership, association, or corporation, nor any state, county, or local governmental units, nor any division, department, board, or agency thereof, shall establish, operate, conduct, or maintain in the state any hospital, sanatorium or other institution for the hospitalization or care of human beings without first obtaining a license therefor in the manner provided in sections 144.50 to 144.56.

Subd. 2. Hospital, sanatorium or other institution for the hospitalization or care of human beings, within the meaning of sections 144.50 to 144.56 shall mean any institution, place, building, or agency, in which any accommodation is maintained, furnished, or offered for: the hospitalization of the sick or injured; elective outpatient surgery for preexamined, prediagnosed low risk patients; emergency medical services offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in an ambulatory or outpatient setting in a facility not a part of a licensed hospital; or the institutional care of human beings. Nothing in sections 144.50 to 144.56 shall apply to a clinic, a physician's office or to hotels or other similar places that furnish only board and room, or either, to their guests.

Subd. 3. "Hospitalization" means the reception and care of persons for a continuous period longer than 24 hours, for the purpose of diagnosis or treatment bearing on the physical or mental health of such persons.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1980 c 357 s 22]

Subd. 5. Nothing in sections 144.50 to 144.56 shall authorize any person, partnership, association, or corporation, nor any state, county, or local governmental units, nor any division, department, board, or agency thereof, to engage, in any manner, in the practice of healing, or the practice of medicine, as defined by law.

History: *1941 c 549 s 1; 1943 c 649 s 1; 1951 c 304 s 1; 1969 c 358 s 1; 1976 c 173 s 34; 1977 c 218 s 1; 1981 c 95 s 1*

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144.51 LICENSE APPLICATIONS.

Before a license shall be issued under sections 144.50 to 144.56, the person applying shall submit evidence satisfactory to the state commissioner of health that he is not less than 18 years of age and of reputable and responsible character; in the event the applicant is an association or corporation or governmental unit like evidence shall be submitted as to the members thereof and the persons in charge. All applicants shall, in addition, submit satisfactory evidence of their ability to comply with the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.56 and all rules, regulations, and minimum standards adopted thereunder.

History: 1941 c 549 s 2; 1943 c 649 s 2; 1951 c 304 s 2; 1973 c 725 s 7; 1976 c 173 s 35; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.52 APPLICATION.

Any person, partnership, association, or corporation, including state, county, or local governmental units, or any division, department, board, or agency thereof, desiring a license under sections 144.50 to 144.56 shall file with the state commissioner of health a verified application containing the name of the applicant desiring said license; whether such persons so applying are 18 years of age; the type of institution to be operated; the location thereof; the name of the person in charge thereof, and such other information pertinent thereto as the state commissioner of health by regulation may require. Application on behalf of a corporation or association or other governmental unit shall be made by any two officers thereof or by its managing agents.

History: 1941 c 549 s 3; 1943 c 649 s 3; 1951 c 304 s 3; 1973 c 725 s 8; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.53 FEES.

Each application for a license, or renewal thereof, to operate a hospital, sanatorium or other institution for the hospitalization or care of human beings, within the meaning of sections 144.50 to 144.56, except applications by the Minnesota veterans home, the commissioner of human services for the licensing of state institutions or by the administrator for the licensing of the university of Minnesota hospitals, shall be accompanied by a fee to be prescribed by the state commissioner of health pursuant to section 144.122. No fee shall be refunded. Licenses shall expire and shall be renewed as prescribed by the commissioner of health pursuant to section 144.122.

No license granted hereunder shall be assignable or transferable.

History: 1941 c 549 s 4; 1945 c 192 s 1; 1951 c 304 s 4; 1959 c 466 s 1; 1974 c 471 s 3; 1975 c 63 s 1; 1975 c 310 s 5; 1976 c 173 s 36; 1976 c 239 s 69; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.54 INSPECTIONS.

Every building, institution, or establishment for which a license has been issued shall be periodically inspected by a duly appointed representative of the state commissioner of health under the rules and regulations to be established by the state commissioner of health. No institution of any kind licensed pursuant to the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.56 shall be required to be licensed or inspected under the laws of this state relating to hotels, restaurants, lodging houses, boarding houses, and places of refreshment.

History: 1941 c 549 s 5; 1951 c 304 s 5; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.55 LICENSES; ISSUANCE, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION BY COMMISSIONER.

Subdivision 1. **Issuance.** The state commissioner of health is hereby authorized to issue licenses to operate hospitals, sanatoriums or other institutions for the hospitalization or care of human beings, which are found to comply with the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.56 and any reasonable rules promulgated by the commissioner. All decisions of the commissioner thereunder may be reviewed in the district court in the county in which the institution is located or contemplated.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "joint commission" means the joint commission on accreditation of hospitals.

Subd. 3. **Standards for licensure.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 144.56, for the purpose of hospital licensure, the commissioner of health shall use as minimum standards the hospital certification regulations promulgated pursuant to Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C., Section 1395, et. seq. The commissioner may use as minimum standards changes in the federal hospital certification regulations promulgated after May 7, 1981 if he finds that such changes are reasonably necessary to protect public health and safety. The commissioner shall also promulgate in rules additional minimum standards for new construction.

Subd. 4. **Routine inspections; presumption.** Any hospital surveyed and accredited under the standards of the hospital accreditation program of the joint commission that submits to the commissioner within a reasonable time copies of (a) its currently valid accreditation certificate and accreditation letter, together with accompanying recommendations and comments and (b) any further recommendations, progress reports and correspondence directly related to the accreditation is presumed to comply with application requirements of subdivision 1 and the standards requirements of subdivision 3 and no further routine inspections or accreditation information shall be required by the commissioner to determine compliance. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 144.54 and 144.653, subdivisions 2 and 4, hospitals shall be inspected only as provided in this section. The provisions of section 144.653 relating to the assessment and collection of fines shall not apply to any hospital. The commissioner of health shall annually conduct, with notice, validation inspections of a selected sample of the number of hospitals accredited by the joint commission, not to exceed ten percent of accredited hospitals, for the purpose of determining compliance with the provisions of subdivision 3. If a validation survey discloses a failure to comply with subdivision 3, the provisions of section 144.653 relating to correction orders, reinspections, and notices of noncompliance shall apply. The commissioner shall also conduct any inspection necessary to determine whether hospital construction, addition, or remodeling projects comply with standards for construction promulgated in rules pursuant to subdivision 3. Pursuant to section 144.653, the commissioner shall inspect any hospital that does not have a currently valid hospital accreditation certificate from the joint commission. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit the investigative powers of the office of health facility complaints as established in sections 144A.51 to 144A.54.

Subd. 5. **Coordination of inspections.** Prior to conducting routine inspections of hospitals, a state agency shall notify the commissioner of its intention to inspect. The commissioner shall then determine whether the inspection is necessary in light of any previous inspections conducted by the commissioner, any other state agency, or the joint commission. The commissioner shall notify the agency of his determination and may authorize the agency to conduct the inspection. No state agency may routinely inspect any hospital without the authorization of the commissioner. The commissioner shall coordinate, insofar as is possible, routine inspections con-

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ducted by state agencies, so as to minimize the number of inspections to which hospitals are subject.

Subd. 6. Suspension, revocation, and refusal to renew. The commissioner may refuse to grant or renew, or may suspend or revoke, a license on any of the following grounds:

- (1) Violation of any of the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.56 or the rules, regulations, or standards issued pursuant thereto;
- (2) Permitting, aiding, or abetting the commission of any illegal act in the institution;
- (3) Conduct or practices detrimental to the welfare of the patient; or
- (4) Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license by fraud or misrepresentation.

Subd. 7. Hearing. Prior to any suspension, revocation or refusal to renew a license, the licensee shall be entitled to notice and a hearing as provided by sections 14.57 to 14.70. At each hearing, the commissioner shall have the burden of establishing that a violation described in subdivision 6 has occurred.

If a license is revoked, suspended, or not renewed, a new application for license may be considered by the commissioner if the conditions upon which revocation, suspension, or refusal to renew was based have been corrected and evidence of this fact has been satisfactorily furnished. A new license may then be granted after proper inspection has been made and all provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.56 and any rules promulgated thereunder have been complied with and recommendation has been made by the inspector as an agent of the commissioner.

Subd. 8. Rules. The commissioner may promulgate rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section, except that the standards described in subdivision 3 shall constitute the sole minimum quality standards for licensure of hospitals.

Subd. 9. Expiration of presently valid licenses. All licenses presently in effect shall remain valid following May 7, 1981 and shall expire on the dates specified on the licenses unless suspended or revoked.

Subd. 10. Evaluation report. On November 15, 1983, the commissioner shall provide the legislature and the governor with a written report evaluating the utilization of the accreditation program, paying particular attention to its effect upon the public health and safety.

Subd. 11. State hospitals not affected. Subdivisions 3, 4 and 5 do not apply to state hospitals and other facilities operated under the direction of the commissioner of human services.

History: 1941 c 549 s 6; 1951 c 304 s 6; 1976 c 173 s 37; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1978 c 674 s 60; 1981 c 95 s 2; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.56 STANDARDS.

Subdivision 1. The state commissioner of health shall, in the manner prescribed by law, adopt and enforce reasonable rules, regulations, and standards under sections 144.50 to 144.56 which he finds to be necessary and in the public interests and may rescind or modify them from time to time as may be in the public interest, insofar as such action is not in conflict with any provision thereof.

Subd. 2. In the public interest the commissioner of health, by such rules, regulations, and standards, may regulate and establish minimum standards as to the construction, equipment, maintenance, and operation of the institutions insofar as they relate to sanitation and safety of the buildings and to the health, treatment, comfort, safety, and well-being of the persons accommodated for care. Construction as used in this subdivision means the erection of new buildings or the alterations of or additions to existing buildings commenced after the passage of this act.

Subd. 2a. The commissioner shall not adopt any rule which unconditionally prohibits double beds in a boarding care home. The commissioner may adopt rules setting criteria for when double beds will be allowed.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of health shall, with the advice of the commissioner of human services, prescribe such general regulations and rules for the conduct of all institutions receiving maternity patients as shall be necessary to effect the purposes of all laws of the state relating to maternity patients and newborn infants so far as the same are applicable.

Subd. 4. The commissioner of health may classify the institutions licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.56 on the basis of the type of care provided and may prescribe separate rules, regulations, and minimum standards for each class.

History: 1941 c 549 s 7; 1943 c 649 s 7; 1951 c 304 s 7; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1981 c 23 s 2; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.561 RESTRICTION OF NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN MEDICAL FACILITIES.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following words have the meanings given to them:

(a) "Person" means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, state, county or local governmental unit or a division, department, board or agency of a governmental unit.

(b) "Medical facility" means an institution, office, clinic, or building, not attached to a licensed hospital, where medical services for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or the maintenance of health are offered in an outpatient or ambulatory setting.

Subd. 2. **Prohibition.** No person shall use the words "emergency," "emergent," "trauma," "critical," or any form of these words which suggest, offer, or imply the availability of immediate care for any medical condition likely to cause death, disability or serious illness in the name of any medical facilities, or in advertising, publications or signs identifying the medical facility unless the facility is licensed under the provisions of section 144.50.

History: 1984 c 534 s 2

144.57 [Repealed, 1951 c 304 s 8]

144.571 [Repealed, 1983 c 260 s 68]

144.572 INSTITUTIONS EXCEPTED.

No regulation nor requirement shall be made, nor standard established under sections 144.50 to 144.56 for any sanatorium, conducted in accordance with the practice and principles of the body known as the Church of Christ, Scientist, except as to the sanitary and safe condition of the premises, cleanliness of operation, and its physical equipment.

History: 1951 c 304 s 10; 1976 c 173 s 39

144.573 PETS IN CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.

Facilities for the institutional care of human beings licensed under section 144.50, may keep pet animals on the premises subject to reasonable rules as to the care, type and maintenance of the pet.

History: 1979 c 38 s 2

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144.58 INFORMATION, CONFIDENTIAL.

Information of a confidential nature received by the state commissioner of health through inspections and authorized under sections 144.50 to 144.56 shall not be disclosed except in a proceeding involving the question of licensure.

History: 1941 c 549 s 9; 1951 c 304 s 11; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.581 HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES.

Subdivision 1. A municipality, political subdivision, state agency, or other governmental entity that owns or operates a hospital authorized, organized, or operated under chapters 158, 250, 376, and 397, or under sections 383A.41, 412.221, 447.05 to 447.13, 447.31, or 471.59, or under any special law authorizing or establishing a hospital or hospital district shall, relative to the delivery of health care services, have, in addition to any authority vested by law, the authority and legal capacity of a nonprofit corporation under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 317, including authority to

- (a) enter shared service and other cooperative ventures,
- (b) join or sponsor membership in organizations intended to benefit the hospital or hospitals in general,
- (c) enter partnerships,
- (d) incorporate other corporations,
- (e) have members of its governing authority or its officers or administrators serve as directors, officers, or employees of the ventures, associations, or corporations,
- (f) own shares of stock in business corporations, and
- (g) offer, directly or indirectly, products and services of the hospital, organization, association, partnership, or corporation to the general public.

Subd. 2. In the event that the municipality, political subdivision, state agency, or other governmental entity provides direct financial subsidy to the hospital from tax revenue at the time an undertaking authorized under subdivision 1 is established or funded, the hospital may not contribute funds to the undertaking for more than three years and thereafter all funds must be repaid, with interest in no more than ten years.

Subd. 3. The conversion of public funds for the benefit of any individual shall constitute grounds for review and action by the attorney general or the county attorney under section 609.54.

Subd. 4. The execution of the functions of the board of directors of a hospital by an organization established under this section shall be subject to the public purchasing requirements of section 471.345, the open meeting law, section 471.705, and the Data Practices Act, chapter 13.

History: 1984 c 554 s 1; 1984 c 655 art 2 s 15 subd 1

- 144.583** [Repealed, 1973 c 139 s 2]
- 144.584** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.59** [Repealed, 1980 c 567 s 2]
- 144.60** [Repealed, 1980 c 567 s 2]
- 144.61** [Repealed, 1980 c 567 s 2]
- 144.62** [Repealed, 1980 c 567 s 2]
- 144.63** [Repealed, 1980 c 567 s 2]

144.64 [Repealed, 1980 c 567 s 2]

144.65 [Repealed, 1980 c 567 s 2]

**144.651 PATIENTS AND RESIDENTS OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES;
BILL OF RIGHTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Legislative intent.** It is the intent of the legislature and the purpose of this section to promote the interests and well being of the patients and residents of health care facilities. No health care facility may require a patient or resident to waive these rights as a condition of admission to the facility. Any guardian or conservator of a patient or resident or, in the absence of a guardian or conservator, an interested person, may seek enforcement of these rights on behalf of a patient or resident. An interested person may also seek enforcement of these rights on behalf of a patient or resident who has a guardian or conservator through administrative agencies or in probate court or county court having jurisdiction over guardianships and conservatorships. Pending the outcome of an enforcement proceeding the health care facility may, in good faith, comply with the instructions of a guardian or conservator. It is the intent of this section that every patient's civil and religious liberties, including the right to independent personal decisions and knowledge of available choices, shall not be infringed and that the facility shall encourage and assist in the fullest possible exercise of these rights.

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, "patient" means a person who is admitted to an acute care inpatient facility for a continuous period longer than 24 hours, for the purpose of diagnosis or treatment bearing on the physical or mental health of that person. "Resident" means a person who is admitted to a nonacute care facility including extended care facilities, nursing homes, and board and care homes for care required because of prolonged mental or physical illness or disability, recovery from injury or disease, or advancing age.

Subd. 3. **Public policy declaration.** It is declared to be the public policy of this state that the interests of each patient and resident be protected by a declaration of a patients' bill of rights which shall include but not be limited to the rights specified in this section.

Subd. 4. **Information about rights.** Patients and residents shall, at admission, be told that there are legal rights for their protection during their stay at the facility and that these are described in an accompanying written statement of the applicable rights and responsibilities set forth in this section. Reasonable arrangements shall be made for those with communication impairments and those who speak a language other than English. Current facility policies, inspection findings of state and local health authorities, and further explanation of the written statement of rights shall be available to patients, residents, their guardians or their chosen representatives upon reasonable request to the administrator or other designated staff person.

Subd. 5. **Courteous treatment.** Patients and residents have the right to be treated with courtesy and respect for their individuality by employees of or persons providing service in a health care facility.

Subd. 6. **Appropriate health care.** Patients and residents shall have the right to appropriate medical and personal care based on individual needs. Appropriate care for residents means care designed to enable residents to achieve their highest level of physical and mental functioning. This right is limited where the service is not reimbursable by public or private resources.

Subd. 7. **Physician's identity.** Patients and residents shall have or be given, in writing, the name, business address, telephone number, and specialty, if any, of the physician responsible for coordination of their care. In cases where it is medically inadvisable, as documented by the attending physician in a patient's or

resident's care record, the information shall be given to the patient's or resident's guardian or other person designated by the patient or resident as his or her representative.

Subd. 8. Relationship with other health services. Patients and residents who receive services from an outside provider are entitled, upon request, to be told the identity of the provider. Residents shall be informed, in writing, of any health care services which are provided to those residents by individuals, corporations, or organizations other than their facility. Information shall include the name of the outside provider, the address, and a description of the service which may be rendered. In cases where it is medically inadvisable, as documented by the attending physician in a patient's or resident's care record, the information shall be given to the patient's or resident's guardian or other person designated by the patient or resident as his or her representative.

Subd. 9. Information about treatment. Patients and residents shall be given by their physicians complete and current information concerning their diagnosis, treatment, alternatives, risks, and prognosis as required by the physician's legal duty to disclose. This information shall be in terms and language the patients or residents can reasonably be expected to understand. Patients and residents may be accompanied by a family member or other chosen representative. This information shall include the likely medical or major psychological results of the treatment and its alternatives. In cases where it is medically inadvisable, as documented by the attending physician in a patient's or resident's medical record, the information shall be given to the patient's or resident's guardian or other person designated by the patient or resident as his or her representative. Individuals have the right to refuse this information.

Every patient or resident suffering from any form of breast cancer shall be fully informed, prior to or at the time of admission and during her stay, of all alternative effective methods of treatment of which the treating physician is knowledgeable, including surgical, radiological, or chemotherapeutic treatments or combinations of treatments and the risks associated with each of those methods.

Subd. 10. Participation in planning treatment. Patients and residents shall have the right to participate in the planning of their health care. This right includes the opportunity to discuss treatment and alternatives with individual caregivers, the opportunity to request and participate in formal care conferences, and the right to include a family member or other chosen representative. In the event that the patient or resident cannot be present, a family member or other representative chosen by the patient or resident may be included in such conferences.

Subd. 11. Continuity of care. Patients and residents shall have the right to be cared for with reasonable regularity and continuity of staff assignment as far as facility policy allows.

Subd. 12. Right to refuse care. Competent patients and residents shall have the right to refuse treatment based on the information required in subdivision 9. Residents who refuse treatment, medication, or dietary restrictions shall be informed of the likely medical or major psychological results of the refusal, with documentation in the individual medical record. In cases where a patient or resident is incapable of understanding the circumstances but has not been adjudicated incompetent, or when legal requirements limit the right to refuse treatment, the conditions and circumstances shall be fully documented by the attending physician in the patient's or resident's medical record.

Subd. 13. Experimental research. Written, informed consent must be obtained prior to a patient's or resident's participation in experimental research. Patients and residents have the right to refuse participation. Both consent and refusal shall be documented in the individual care record.

Subd. 14. **Freedom from abuse.** Patients and residents shall be free from mental and physical abuse as defined in the Vulnerable Adults Protection Act. "Abuse" means any act which constitutes assault, sexual exploitation, or criminal sexual conduct as described in section 626.557, subdivision 2d, or the intentional and nontherapeutic infliction of physical pain or injury, or any persistent course of conduct intended to produce mental or emotional distress. Every patient and resident shall also be free from nontherapeutic chemical and physical restraints, except in fully documented emergencies, or as authorized in writing after examination by a patient's or resident's physician for a specified and limited period of time, and only when necessary to protect the resident from self-injury or injury to others.

Subd. 15. **Treatment privacy.** Patients and residents shall have the right to respectfulness and privacy as it relates to their medical and personal care program. Case discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment are confidential and shall be conducted discreetly. Privacy shall be respected during toileting, bathing, and other activities of personal hygiene, except as needed for patient or resident safety or assistance.

Subd. 16. **Confidentiality of records.** Patients and residents shall be assured confidential treatment of their personal and medical records, and may approve or refuse their release to any individual outside the facility. Residents shall be notified when personal records are requested by any individual outside the facility and may select someone to accompany them when the records or information are the subject of a personal interview. Copies of records and written information from the records shall be made available in accordance with this subdivision and section 144.335. This right does not apply to complaint investigations and inspections by the department of health, where required by third party payment contracts, or where otherwise provided by law.

Subd. 17. **Disclosure of services available.** Patients and residents shall be informed, prior to or at the time of admission and during their stay, of services which are included in the facility's basic per diem or daily room rate and that other services are available at additional charges. Facilities shall make every effort to assist patients and residents in obtaining information regarding whether the medicare or medical assistance program will pay for any or all of the aforementioned services.

Subd. 18. **Responsive service.** Patients and residents shall have the right to a prompt and reasonable response to their questions and requests.

Subd. 19. **Personal privacy.** Patients and residents shall have the right to every consideration of their privacy, individuality, and cultural identity as related to their social, religious, and psychological well-being. Facility staff shall respect the privacy of a resident's room by knocking on the door and seeking consent before entering, except in an emergency or where clearly inadvisable.

Subd. 20. **Grievances.** Patients and residents shall be encouraged and assisted, throughout their stay in a facility, to understand and exercise their rights as patients, residents, and citizens. Patients and residents may voice grievances and recommend changes in policies and services to facility staff and others of their choice, free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal, including threat of discharge. Notice of the facility's grievance procedure, as well as addresses and telephone numbers for the office of health facility complaints and the area nursing home ombudsman pursuant to the Older Americans Act, section 307(a)(12) shall be posted in a conspicuous place.

Subd. 21. **Communication privacy.** Patients and residents may associate and communicate privately with persons of their choice and enter and, except as provided by the Minnesota Commitment Act, leave the facility as they choose. Patients and residents shall have access, at their expense, to writing instruments, stationery, and postage. Personal mail shall be sent without interference and

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received unopened unless medically or programmatically contraindicated and documented by the physician in the medical record. There shall be access to a telephone where patients and residents can make and receive calls as well as speak privately. Facilities which are unable to provide a private area shall make reasonable arrangements to accommodate the privacy of patients' or residents' calls. This right is limited where medically inadvisable, as documented by the attending physician in a patient's or resident's care record. Where programmatically limited by a facility abuse prevention plan pursuant to section 626.557, subdivision 14, clause 2, this right shall also be limited accordingly.

Subd. 22. Personal property. Patients and residents may retain and use their personal clothing and possessions as space permits, unless to do so would infringe upon rights of other patients or residents, and unless medically or programmatically contraindicated for documented medical, safety, or programmatic reasons. The facility must either maintain a central locked depository or provide individual locked storage areas in which residents may store their valuables for safekeeping. The facility may, but is not required to, provide compensation for or replacement of lost or stolen items.

Subd. 23. Services for the facility. Patients and residents shall not perform labor or services for the facility unless those activities are included for therapeutic purposes and appropriately goal-related in their individual medical record.

Subd. 24. Choice of supplier. A resident may purchase or rent goods or services not included in the per diem rate from a supplier of his or her choice unless otherwise provided by law. The supplier shall ensure that these purchases are sufficient to meet the medical or treatment needs of the resident.

Subd. 25. Financial affairs. Competent residents may manage their personal financial affairs, or shall be given at least a quarterly accounting of financial transactions on their behalf if they delegate this responsibility in accordance with the laws of Minnesota to the facility for any period of time.

Subd. 26. Right to associate. Residents may meet with visitors and participate in activities of commercial, religious, political, as defined in section 203B.11 and community groups without interference at their discretion if the activities do not infringe on the right to privacy of other residents or are not programmatically contraindicated. This includes the right to join with other individuals within and outside the facility to work for improvements in long-term care.

Subd. 27. Advisory councils. Residents and their families shall have the right to organize, maintain, and participate in resident advisory and family councils. Each facility shall provide assistance and space for meetings. Council meetings shall be afforded privacy, with staff or visitors attending only upon the council's invitation. A staff person shall be designated the responsibility of providing this assistance and responding to written requests which result from council meetings. Resident and family councils shall be encouraged to make recommendations regarding facility policies.

Subd. 28. Married residents. Residents, if married, shall be assured privacy for visits by their spouses and, if both spouses are residents of the facility, they shall be permitted to share a room, unless medically contraindicated and documented by their physicians in the medical records.

Subd. 29. Transfers and discharges. Residents shall not be arbitrarily transferred or discharged. Residents must be notified, in writing, of the proposed discharge or transfer and its justification no later than 30 days before discharge from the facility and seven days before transfer to another room within the facility. This notice shall include the resident's right to contest the proposed action, with the address and telephone number of the area nursing home ombudsman pursuant to the

Older Americans Act, section 307(a)(12). The resident, informed of this right, may choose to relocate before the notice period ends. The notice period may be shortened in situations outside the facility's control, such as a determination by utilization review, the accommodation of newly-admitted residents, a change in the resident's medical or treatment program, the resident's own or another resident's welfare, or nonpayment for stay unless prohibited by the public program or programs paying for the resident's care, as documented in the medical record. Facilities shall make a reasonable effort to accommodate new residents without disrupting room assignments.

History: 1973 c 688 s 1; 1976 c 274 s 1; 1982 c 504 s 1; 1983 c 248 s 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 8; 1984 c 657 s 1

144.652 BILL OF RIGHTS NOTICE TO PATIENT OR RESIDENT; VIOLATION.

Subdivision 1. **Distribution; posting.** Except as provided below, section 144.651 shall be posted conspicuously in a public place in all facilities licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58, or 144A.02. Copies of the law shall be furnished the patient or resident and the patient or resident's guardian or conservator upon admittance to the facility. Facilities providing services to patients may delete section 144.651, subdivisions 24 to 29, and those portions of other subdivisions that apply only to residents, from copies posted or distributed to patients with appropriate notation that residents have additional rights under law. The policy statement shall include the address and telephone number of the board of medical examiners and/or the name and phone number of the person within the facility to whom inquiries about the medical care received may be directed. The notice shall include a brief statement describing how to file a complaint with the office of health facility complaints established pursuant to section 144A.52 concerning a violation of section 144.651 or any other state statute or rule. This notice shall include the address and phone number of the office of health facility complaints.

Subd. 2. **Correction order; emergencies.** A substantial violation of the rights of any patient or resident as defined in section 144.651, shall be grounds for issuance of a correction order pursuant to section 144.653 or 144A.10. The issuance or nonissuance of a correction order shall not preclude, diminish, enlarge, or otherwise alter private action by or on behalf of a patient or resident to enforce any unreasonable violation of his rights. Compliance with the provisions of section 144.651 shall not be required whenever emergency conditions, as documented by the attending physician in a patient's medical record or a resident's care record, indicate immediate medical treatment, including but not limited to surgical procedures, is necessary and it is impossible or impractical to comply with the provisions of section 144.651 because delay would endanger the patient's or resident's life, health, or safety.

History: 1973 c 688 s 2; 1976 c 173 s 41; 1976 c 222 s 28; 1976 c 274 s 2; 1977 c 326 s 1; 1983 c 248 s 2

144.653 RULES; PERIODIC INSPECTIONS; ENFORCEMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Rules.** The state commissioner of health is the exclusive state agency charged with the responsibility and duty of inspecting all facilities required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58. The state commissioner of health shall enforce its rules subject only to the authority of the department of public safety respecting the enforcement of fire and safety standards in licensed health care facilities and the responsibility of the commissioner of human services pursuant to sections 245.781 to 245.812 and 252.28.

Subd. 2. **Periodic inspection.** All facilities required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58 shall be periodically inspected by the state commissioner of health to ensure compliance with rules and standards. Inspections shall occur at different times throughout the calendar year. The commissioner of health may enter into agreements with political subdivisions providing for the inspection of such facilities by locally employed inspectors.

The commissioner of health shall conduct inspections and reinspections of facilities licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.56 with a frequency and in a manner calculated to produce the greatest benefit to residents within the limits of the resources available to the commissioner. In performing this function, the commissioner may devote proportionately more resources to the inspection of those facilities in which conditions present the most serious concerns with respect to resident health, treatment, comfort, safety, and well-being.

These conditions include but are not limited to: change in ownership; frequent change in administration in excess of normal turnover rates; complaints about care, safety, or rights; where previous inspections or reinspections have resulted in correction orders related to care, safety, or rights; and, where persons involved in ownership or administration of the facility have been indicted for alleged criminal activity. Any health care facility that has none of the above conditions or any other condition established by the commissioner that poses a risk to resident care, safety, or rights shall be inspected once every two years.

Subd. 3. **Enforcement.** With the exception of the department of public safety which has the exclusive jurisdiction to enforce state fire and safety standards, the state commissioner of health is the exclusive state agency charged with the responsibility and duty of inspecting facilities required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58 and enforcing the rules, regulations and standards prescribed by it.

Subd. 4. **Without notice.** One or more unannounced inspections of each facility required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58 shall be made annually.

Subd. 5. **Correction orders.** Whenever a duly authorized representative of the state commissioner of health finds upon inspection of a facility required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58 that the licensee of such facility is not in compliance with an applicable regulation promulgated under the administrative procedures act by the state commissioner of health pursuant to section 144.56, a correction order shall be issued to the licensee. The correction order shall state the deficiency, cite the specific regulation violated, and specify the time allowed for correction.

Subd. 6. **Reinspections; fines.** If upon reinspection it is found that the licensee of a facility required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58 has not corrected deficiencies specified in the correction order, a notice of noncompliance with a correction order shall be issued stating all deficiencies not corrected. Unless a hearing is requested under subdivision 8, the licensee shall forfeit to the state within 15 days after receipt by him of such notice of noncompliance with a correction order up to \$1,000 for each deficiency not corrected. For each subsequent reinspection, the licensee may be fined an additional amount for each deficiency which has not been corrected. All forfeitures shall be paid into the general fund. The commissioner of health shall promulgate by rule and regulation a schedule of fines applicable for each type of uncorrected deficiency.

Subd. 7. **Recovery.** Any unpaid forfeitures may be recovered by the attorney general.

Subd. 8. **Hearings.** A licensee of a facility required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58 is entitled to a hearing on any notice of noncompliance with a correction order issued to him as a result of a reinspection, provided that he makes a written request therefor within 15 days of receipt by him of the notice of noncompliance with a correction order. Failure to request a hearing shall result in the forfeiture of a penalty as determined by the commissioner of health in accordance with subdivision 6. A request for a hearing shall operate as a stay during the hearing and review process of the payment of any forfeiture provided for in this section. Upon receipt of the request for a hearing, a hearing officer, who shall not be an employee of the state commissioner of health, shall be appointed by the state commissioner of health, and the hearing officer shall promptly schedule a hearing on the matter, giving at least ten days notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing to the licensee. Upon determining that the licensee of a facility required to be licensed under sections 144.50 to 144.58 has not corrected the deficiency specified in the correction order, the hearing officer shall impose a penalty as determined by the commissioner of health in accordance with subdivision 6. The hearing and review thereof shall be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the administrative procedures act.

Subd. 9. **Nonlimiting.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the powers granted to the state commissioner of health in section 144.55.

History: 1973 c 688 s 3; 1975 c 310 s 6,7,37; 1976 c 173 s 42; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 76; 1983 c 312 art 1 s 16; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.654 EXPERTS MAY BE EMPLOYED.

The state commissioner of health may employ experts in the field of health care to assist the staffs of facilities required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58, or 144A.02, in programming and providing adequate care of the patients and residents of the facility. Alternate methods of care for patients and residents of the facilities shall be researched by the state commissioner of health using the knowledge and experience of experts employed therefor.

History: 1973 c 688 s 4; 1976 c 173 s 43; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.655 PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTARY MEDICAL AID.

Licensed physicians may visit a facility required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58, or 144A.02, and examine patients and residents thereof under a program which shall be established by the state commissioner of health and regulated and governed by rules promulgated by the state commissioner of health pursuant to the administrative procedures act. The rules shall protect the privacy of patients and residents of facilities. No patient or resident of any facility shall be required to submit to an examination under the program. The state commissioner of health shall consult with medical schools and other experts for the purpose of establishing the program. The state commissioner of health shall encourage the active participation of all licensed physicians on a voluntary basis in the program.

History: 1973 c 688 s 5; 1976 c 173 s 44; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.656 EMPLOYEES TO BE COMPENSATED.

All employees of facilities required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58, or 144A.02, participating in orientation programs or in inservice training provided by the facility shall be compensated therefor at their regular rate of pay, provided, however, that this section will be effective only to the

extent that facilities are reimbursed for the compensation by the commissioner of human services in the proportion of welfare to total residents and patients in the facility.

History: 1973 c 688 s 6; 1976 c 173 s 45; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

144.657 VOLUNTEER EFFORTS ENCOURAGED.

The state commissioner of health, through the dissemination of information to appropriate organizations, shall encourage citizens to promote improved care in facilities required to be licensed under the provisions of sections 144.50 to 144.58, or 144A.02, throughout the state.

History: 1973 c 688 s 7; 1976 c 173 s 46; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.659 REYES SYNDROME; REPORTS.

Subdivision 1. **Physician's duty.** A physician who diagnoses that a patient has Reyes syndrome shall report that case to the commissioner of health in writing.

Subd. 2. **Department report.** The commissioner of health shall report information received pursuant to subdivision 1 to the National Center for Disease Control or its successor agency.

Subd. 3. **No liability.** Furnishing information required by this section shall not subject the person furnishing it to any action for damages or other relief.

Subd. 4. **Classification of data.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, reports concerning patients diagnosed as having Reyes syndrome are private data.

History: 1982 c 419 s 1

NOTE: This section is repealed when the commissioner of health includes Reyes syndrome as a reportable disease in rules, or effective January 1, 1984, whichever occurs first. See Laws 1982, Chapter 419, Section 2.

144.66 CANCER STATISTICAL RESEARCH.

The state commissioner of health may establish a cancer statistical research service and may make and amend regulations and furnish forms for collecting, transcribing, compiling, and preserving the information received by the commissioner, pursuant to sections 144.66 to 144.69.

History: 1949 c 350 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.67 INFORMATIONAL AND STATISTICAL RESEARCH.

The state commissioner of health shall collect, transcribe, compile, classify, and preserve information received by him, analyze this information, and make studies therefrom showing the incidence of tumors of various types, the procedures in the care of these tumors, and the effectiveness of the different methods of treatment on tumors. The informational and statistical results of these studies shall be available to the physicians and surgeons in the state. A follow-up information service may be made available to assist in completing hospital case records when subsequent data on a tumor case is obtained.

History: 1949 c 350 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.68 RECORDS AND REPORTS.

Subdivision 1. **Person practicing healing arts.** Every person licensed to practice the healing arts in any form, upon request of the state commissioner of health, shall prepare and forward to the commissioner, in the manner and at such times as

he designates, a detailed record of each case of malignant disease treated or seen by him professionally.

Subd. 2. **Hospitals and similar institutions.** Every hospital, sanatorium, nursing home or other institution for the hospitalization or care of human beings, upon request of the state commissioner of health, shall prepare and forward to the commissioner, in the manner and at the times that he designates, a detailed record of each case of malignant disease having been therein.

Subd. 3. **Information without liability.** The furnishing of the information required under subdivisions 1 and 2 shall not subject the person, hospital, sanatorium, nursing home, or other place furnishing the information, to any action for damages or other relief.

History: 1949 c 350 s 3; 1976 c 173 s 47,48; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.69 INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

No such report, or part thereof, nor any copy of the same or part thereof, shall be open to the public, nor shall any of the contents thereof be disclosed, in any manner, by any official or clerk or other employee or person having access thereto, but all such information shall be confidential and may only be used for the purposes set forth in sections 144.66 to 144.69. And any such disclosure other than is provided for in sections 144.66 to 144.69, is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor and punishable as such. No officer or employee of the board shall interview any patient named in any such report, nor a relative of any such patient, unless the consent of the attending physician and surgeon is first obtained.

History: 1949 c 350 s 4

144.691 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

Subdivision 1. **Facilities.** Every hospital licensed as such pursuant to sections 144.50 to 144.56, and every outpatient surgery center shall establish a grievance or complaint mechanism designed to process and resolve promptly and effectively grievances by patients or their representatives related to billing, inadequacies of treatment, and other factors which may have an impact on the incidence of malpractice claims and suits.

For the purposes of sections 144.691 to 144.693, "outpatient surgery center" shall mean a free standing facility organized for the specific purpose of providing elective outpatient surgery for preexamined prediagnosed low risk patients. Services provided at an outpatient surgery center shall be limited to surgical procedures which utilize local or general anesthesia and which do not require overnight inpatient care. "Outpatient surgery center" does not mean emergency medical services, or physician or dentist offices.

Subd. 2. **Patient notice.** Each patient receiving treatment at a hospital or an outpatient surgery center shall be notified of the grievance or complaint mechanism which is available to him.

Subd. 3. **Rules.** The state commissioner of health shall, by January 1, 1977, establish by rule promulgated pursuant to chapter 15:

(a) Minimum standards and procedural requirements for grievance and complaint mechanism;

(b) A list of patient complaints which may be processed through a complaint or grievance mechanism;

(c) The form and manner in which patient notices shall be made; and

(d) A schedule of fines, not to exceed \$200 per offense, for the failure of a hospital or outpatient surgery center to comply with the provisions of this section.

Subd. 4. **Reports.** Each hospital and outpatient surgery center, and every health maintenance organization required under section 62D.11 to implement a complaint system, shall at least annually submit to the state commissioner of health a report on the operation of its complaint or grievance mechanism. The frequency, form, and content of each report shall be as prescribed by rule of the state commissioner of health. Data relating to patient records collected by the state commissioner of health pursuant to this section shall be summary data within the meaning of section 13.02, subdivision 19. The state commissioner of health shall collect, analyze and evaluate the data submitted by the hospitals, health maintenance organizations, and outpatient surgery centers; and shall periodically publish reports and studies designed to improve patient complaint and grievance mechanisms.

History: 1976 c 325 s 8; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1981 c 311 s 39; 1982 c 545 s 24

144.692 IN-SERVICE TRAINING.

The state commissioner of health shall study and publish recommendations for in-service personnel training programs designed to reduce the incidence of malpractice claims and suits against hospitals, outpatient surgery centers and health maintenance organizations regulated under chapter 62D.

History: 1976 c 325 s 9; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.693 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS; REPORTS.

Subdivision 1. On or before September 1, 1976, and on or before March 1 and September 1 of each year thereafter, each insurer providing professional liability insurance to one or more hospitals, outpatient surgery centers, or health maintenance organizations, shall submit to the state commissioner of health a report listing by facility or organization all claims which have been closed by or filed with the insurer during the period ending December 31 of the previous year or June 30 of the current year. The report shall contain, but not be limited to, the following information:

- (a) The total number of claims made against each facility or organization which were filed or closed during the reporting period;
- (b) The date each new claim was filed with the insurer;
- (c) The allegations contained in each claim filed during the reporting period;
- (d) The disposition and closing date of each claim closed during the reporting period;
- (e) The dollar amount of the award or settlement for each claim closed during the reporting period; and
- (f) Any other information the commissioner of health may, by rule, require.

Any hospital, outpatient surgery center, or health maintenance organization which is self insured shall be considered to be an insurer for the purposes of this section and shall comply with the reporting provisions of this section.

A report from an insurer submitted pursuant to this section is private data, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, accessible to the facility or organization which is the subject of the data, and to its authorized agents. Any data relating to patient records which is reported to the state commissioner of health pursuant to this section shall be reported in the form of summary data, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 19.

Subd. 2. The state commissioner of health shall collect and review the data reported pursuant to subdivision 1. On December 1, 1976, and on January 2 of each year thereafter, the state commissioner of health shall report to the legislature his findings related to the incidence and size of malpractice claims against hospitals,

outpatient surgery centers, and health maintenance organizations, and shall make any appropriate recommendations to reduce the incidence and size of the claims. Data published by the state commissioner of health pursuant to this subdivision with respect to malpractice claims information shall be summary data within the meaning of section 13.02, subdivision 19.

Subd. 3. The state commissioner of health shall have access to the records of any insurer relating to malpractice claims made against hospitals, outpatient surgery centers, and health maintenance organizations in years prior to 1976 if he determines the records are necessary to fulfill his duties under Laws 1976, Chapter 325.

History: 1976 c 325 s 10; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1981 c 311 s 39; 1982 c 545 s 24

144.695 CITATION.

Sections 144.695 to 144.703 may be cited as the Minnesota Health Care Cost Information Act of 1984.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 1; 1984 c 534 s 3

144.696 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, for the purposes of sections 144.695 to 144.703, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Commissioner of health" means the state commissioner of health.

Subd. 3. "Hospital" means any acute care institution licensed pursuant to sections 144.50 to 144.58, but does not include any health care institution conducted for those who rely primarily upon treatment by prayer or spiritual means in accordance with the creed or tenets of any church or denomination.

Subd. 4. "Outpatient surgical center" means a facility other than a hospital offering elective outpatient surgery under a license issued under sections 144.50 to 144.58.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 534 s 4

144.697 GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF STATE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner of health may contract with third parties for services necessary to carry out his activities where this will promote economy, avoid duplication of effort, and make best use of available expertise.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of health may apply for and receive grants and gifts from any governmental agency, private entity or other person.

Subd. 3. To further the purposes of sections 144.695 to 144.703, the commissioner of health may create committees from the membership and may appoint ad hoc advisory committees.

Subd. 4. The commissioner of health shall coordinate regulation and inspection of hospitals to avoid, to the extent possible, conflicting rules and duplicative inspections.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 3; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.698 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Subdivision 1. Each hospital and each outpatient surgical center, which has not filed the financial information required by this section with a voluntary,

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nonprofit reporting organization pursuant to section 144.702, shall file annually with the commissioner of health after the close of the fiscal year:

- (a) A balance sheet detailing the assets, liabilities, and net worth of the hospital;
- (b) A detailed statement of income and expenses;
- (c) A copy of its most recent cost report, if any, filed pursuant to requirements of Title XVIII of the United States Social Security Act; and
- (d) A copy of all changes to articles of incorporation or bylaws.

Subd. 2. If more than one licensed hospital or outpatient surgical center is operated by the reporting organization, the commissioner of health may require that the information be reported separately for each hospital and each outpatient surgical center.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of health may require attestation by responsible officials of the hospital or outpatient surgical center that the contents of the reports are true.

Subd. 4. All reports, except privileged medical information, filed pursuant to this section, section 144.701 or section 144.702, subdivision 3 or 4 shall be open to public inspection.

Subd. 5. The commissioner of health shall have the right to inspect hospital and outpatient surgical center books, audits, and records as reasonably necessary to verify hospital and outpatient surgical center reports.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 4; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 534 s 5

144.699 CONTINUING ANALYSIS.

Subdivision 1. **Acute care costs.** The commissioner of health may:

(a) Undertake analyses and studies relating to acute care costs and to the financial status of any hospital or outpatient surgical center subject to the provisions of sections 144.695 to 144.703; and

(b) Publish and disseminate the information relating to acute care costs.

Subd. 2. **Fostering price competition.** The commissioner of health shall:

(a) Encourage hospitals, outpatient surgical centers, and professionals regulated by the health related licensing boards as defined in section 214.01, subdivision 2, and by the commissioner of health under section 214.13, to publish prices for procedures and services that are representative of the diagnoses and conditions for which citizens of this state seek treatment.

(b) Analyze and disseminate available price information and analyses so as to foster the development of price competition among hospitals, outpatient surgical centers, and health professionals.

Subd. 3. **Cooperation with attorney general.** Upon request of the attorney general, the commissioner of health shall make available to the attorney general all requested information provided under sections 144.695 to 144.703 in order to assist the attorney general in discharging the responsibilities of section 8.31.

Subd. 4. The commissioner of health shall prepare and file summaries and compilations or other supplementary reports based on the information filed with or made available to the commissioner of health, which reports will advance the purposes of sections 144.695 to 144.703.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 5; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 534 s 6

144.70 ANNUAL REPORT.

The commissioner of health shall prepare and prior to each legislative session transmit to the governor and to the members of the legislature an annual report of

the commissioner of health's operations and activities for the preceding fiscal year as they relate to the duties imposed on the commissioner of health by sections 144.695 to 144.703. This report shall include a compilation of all summaries and reports required by sections 144.695 to 144.703 together with any findings and recommendations of the commissioner of health.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 6; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.701 RATE DISCLOSURE.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner of health shall ensure that the total costs, total revenues, and total services of each hospital and each outpatient surgical center are reported to the public in a form understandable to consumers.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of health shall compile relevant financial and accounting data concerning hospitals and outpatient surgical centers in order to have statistical information available for legislative policy making.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of health shall obtain from each hospital and outpatient surgical center a current rate schedule. Any subsequent amendments or modifications of that schedule shall be filed with the commissioner of health at least 60 days in advance of their effective date.

Subd. 4. Each report which is required to be submitted to the commissioner of health under sections 144.695 to 144.703 and which is not submitted to a voluntary, nonprofit reporting organization in accordance with section 144.702 shall be accompanied by a filing fee in an amount prescribed by rule of the commissioner of health. Fees received pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in the general fund of the state treasury.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 7; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1984 c 534 s

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144.702 VOLUNTARY REPORTING OF HOSPITAL AND OUTPATIENT SURGICAL CENTER COSTS.

Subdivision 1. A hospital or outpatient surgical center may agree to submit its financial reports to a voluntary, nonprofit reporting organization whose reporting procedures have been approved by the commissioner of health in accordance with this section.

Subd. 2. The commissioner of health may approve voluntary reporting procedures which are substantially equivalent to reporting requirements and procedures adopted by the commissioner of health for reporting procedures under sections 144.695 to 144.703. The commissioner of health shall, by rule, prescribe standards for approval of voluntary reporting procedures, which standards shall provide for:

(a) The filing of appropriate financial information with the reporting organization;

(b) Adequate analysis and verification of that financial information; and

(c) Timely publication of the costs, revenues, and rates of individual hospitals and outpatient surgical centers prior to the effective date of any proposed rate increase. The commissioner of health shall annually review the procedures approved pursuant to this subdivision.

Subd. 3. Any voluntary, nonprofit reporting organization which collects information on costs, revenues, and rates of a hospital or outpatient surgical center located in this state shall file a copy of the information received for each hospital and outpatient surgical center with the commissioner of health within 30 days of completion of the information collection process, together with a summary of the financial information acquired by the organization during the course of its review.

Subd. 4. Any voluntary, nonprofit reporting organization which receives the financial information required by sections 144.695 to 144.703 shall make the information and all summaries and analyses of the information available to the commissioner of health in accordance with procedures prescribed by the commissioner of health.

Subd. 5. If the reporting and procedures of a voluntary, nonprofit reporting organization have been approved by the commissioner of health those reporting activities of the organization shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 325D.49 to 325D.66.

Subd. 6. For the purposes of this section "reporting organization" means an association or other organization which has as one of its primary functions the collection and dissemination of acute care cost information.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 8; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 534 s 8

144.7021 [Repealed, 1984 c 534 s 33]

144.703 ADDITIONAL POWERS.

Subdivision 1. In addition to the other powers granted to the commissioner of health by law, the commissioner of health may:

(a) Adopt, amend, and repeal rules in accordance with chapter 14;

(b) Adopt in rule a schedule of fines, ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, for failure of a hospital or an outpatient surgical center to submit, or to make a timely submission of, information called for by sections 144.695 to 144.703.

Subd. 2. Any person aggrieved by a final determination of the commissioner of health as to any rule or determination under sections 144.695 to 144.703 shall be entitled to an administrative hearing and judicial review in accordance with the contested case provisions of chapter 14.

History: 1976 c 296 art 2 s 9; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1984 c 534 s 9

144.704 [Repealed, 1984 c 534 s 33]

144.705 [Repealed, 1984 c 534 s 33]

CHILDREN'S CAMPS

144.71 PURPOSE; DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Health and safety.** The purpose of sections 144.71 to 144.76 is to protect the health and safety of children in attendance at children's camps.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** For the purpose of such sections a children's camp is defined as a parcel or parcels of land with permanent buildings, tents or other structures together with appurtenances thereon, established or maintained as living quarters where both food and lodging or the facilities therefor are provided for ten or more people, operated continuously for a period of five days or more each year for educational, recreational or vacation purposes, and the use of the camp is offered to minors free of charge or for payment of a fee.

Subd. 3. **What not included in definition.** This definition does not include cabin and trailer camps, fishing and hunting camps, resorts, penal and correctional camps, industrial and construction camps, nor does it include homes operated for care or treatment of children and for the operation of which a license is required under the provisions of chapter 257.

History: 1951 c 285 s 1; 1974 c 406 s 21

144.72 OPERATION.

Subdivision 1. **Permits.** The state commissioner of health is authorized to issue permits for the operation of such children's camps and such camps are required to obtain such permits.

Subd. 2. **Application.** On or before June first annually, every person, partnership or corporation, operating or seeking to operate a children's camp, shall make application in writing to the commissioner for a permit to conduct a children's camp. Such application shall be in such form and shall contain such information as the commissioner may find necessary to his determination that the children's camp will be operated and maintained in such a manner as to protect and preserve the health and safety of the persons using the camp. Where a person, partnership or corporation operates or is seeking to operate more than one children's camp, a separate application shall be made for each camp.

Subd. 3. **Issuance of permits.** If the commissioner should determine from the application that the health and safety of the persons using the camp will be properly safeguarded, he may, prior to actual inspection of the camp, issue the permit in writing. No fee shall be charged for the permit. The permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises occupied by the camp.

History: 1951 c 285 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.73 STATE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Inspection of camps.** It shall be the duty of the state commissioner of health to make an annual inspection of each children's camp, and where, upon inspection it is found that there is a failure to protect the health and safety of the persons using the camp, or a failure to comply with the camp regulations prescribed by the commissioner, the commissioner shall give notice to the camp operator of such failure, which notice shall set forth the reason or reasons for such failure.

Subd. 2. **Revocation of permit.** The camp operator shall have a reasonable time after receiving said notice in which to correct such failure and to comply with the requirements and regulations of the commissioner. In the event the camp operator shall fail to comply with the requirements of said notice within a reasonable time, the commissioner may revoke the permit of such children's camp.

Subd. 3. **Hearings.** The camp operator shall be entitled to a hearing before the commissioner on the revocation of his permit. A request for such hearing shall be made by the camp operator in writing. The hearing shall be held at the time and place designated by the commissioner and at least five days written notice of such hearing shall be given to the camp operator. The notice may be served by certified mail. The camp operator shall be entitled to be represented by legal counsel and shall have the right to produce evidence and testimony at such hearing. The commissioner may appoint in writing any competent person to preside at such hearing. Such person shall take testimony, administer oaths, issue subpoenas, compel the attendance of witnesses, and transmit the record of the hearing to the commissioner. The decision of the commissioner shall be based on the evidence and testimony presented at such hearing.

Subd. 4. **Reinstatement of permit.** Where a permit has been revoked by the commissioner it shall be reinstated upon compliance with the requirements and regulations of the state commissioner of health.

History: 1951 c 285 s 3; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1978 c 674 s 60

144.74 REGULATIONS, STANDARDS.

The state commissioner of health is authorized to adopt and enforce such reasonable regulations and standards as he determines necessary to protect the health and safety of children in attendance at children's camps. Such regulations and standards may include reasonable restrictions and limitations on the following:

(1) Camp sites and buildings, including location, layout, lighting, ventilation, heating, plumbing, drainage and sleeping quarters;

(2) Sanitary facilities, including water supply, toilet and shower facilities, sewage and excreta disposal, waste and garbage disposal, and the control of insects and rodents, and

(3) Food service, including storage, refrigeration, sanitary preparation and handling of food, the cleanliness of kitchens and the proper functioning of equipment.

History: 1951 c 285 s 4; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.75 [Repealed, 1973 c 250 s 2]

144.76 VIOLATION, PENALTY.

Any person violating any of the provisions of sections 144.71 to 144.76 or of the regulations or standards promulgated hereunder shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: 1951 c 285 s 6

*** LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

144.801 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of sections 144.801 to 144.8091, the terms defined in this section have the meaning given them.

Subd. 2. "Ambulance" means any vehicle designed or intended for and actually used in providing life support transportation service to ill or injured persons, or expectant mothers.

Subd. 3. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of health of the state of Minnesota.

Subd. 4. "Life support transportation service" means transportation and treatment which is rendered or offered to be rendered preliminary to or during transportation to, from, or between health care facilities for ill or injured persons, or expectant mothers.

Subd. 5. "License" means authority granted by the commissioner for the operation of a life support transportation service in the state of Minnesota.

Subd. 6. "Licensee" means a natural person, partnership, association, corporation, or unit of government which possesses a life support transportation service license.

Subd. 7. "Base of operation" means the address at which the physical plant housing ambulances, related equipment and personnel is located.

Subd. 8. "Health systems agency" means an agency established under section 145.845 to meet the requirements of the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act, P.L. 93-641, 42 U.S.C. Section 300k et seq.

Subd. 9. "Primary service area" means the geographic area that can reasonably be served by a life support transportation service.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 144.802

Subd. 10. "Municipality" means any city of any class, however organized, and any town.

History: 1969 c 773 s 1; 1973 c 220 s 1,2; 1977 c 37 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1979 c 316 s 1; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 77

144.802 LICENSING.

Subdivision 1. No natural person, partnership, association, corporation or unit of government may operate a life support transportation service within this state unless it possesses a valid license to do so issued by the commissioner. The license shall specify the base of operations, primary service area, and the type or types of life support transportation service for which the licensee is licensed. The licensee shall obtain a new license if it wishes to establish a new base of operation, or to expand its primary service area, or to provide a new type or types of service. A license, or the ownership of a licensed life support transportation service, may be transferred only after the approval of the commissioner, based upon a finding that the proposed licensee or proposed new owner of a licensed life support transportation service meets or will meet the requirements of section 144.804. If the proposed transfer would result in a change in or addition of a new base of operations, expansion of the service's primary service area, or provision of a new type or types of life support transportation service, the commissioner shall require the prospective licensee or owner to comply with subdivision 3. The commissioner may approve the license or ownership transfer prior to completion of the application process described in subdivision 3 upon obtaining written assurances from the proposed licensee or proposed new owner that no change in the service's base of operations, expansion of the service's primary service area, or provision of a new type or types of life support transportation service will occur during the processing of the application. The cost of licenses shall be in an amount prescribed by the commissioner pursuant to section 144.122. Licenses shall expire and be renewed as prescribed by the commissioner pursuant to section 144.122.

Subd. 2. The commissioner shall not issue a license authorizing the operation of a new life support transportation service, provision of a new type or types of life support transportation service by an existing service, or establishment of a new base of operation or an expanded primary service area for an existing service unless the requirements of sections 144.801 to 144.807 are met.

Subd. 3. (a) Each prospective licensee and each present licensee wishing to offer a new type or types of life support transportation service, to establish a new base of operation, or to expand a primary service area, shall make written application for a license to the commissioner on a form provided by the commissioner. The commissioner shall promptly send notice of the completed application to the health systems agency or agencies, the community health service agency or agencies, and each municipality and county in the area in which life support transportation service would be provided by the applicant. The commissioner shall publish the notice, at the applicant's expense, in the state register and in a newspaper in the municipality in which the service would be provided, or if no newspaper is published in the municipality or if the service would be provided in more than one municipality, in a newspaper published at the county-seat of the county or counties in which the service would be provided.

(b) Each municipality, county, community health service, and other person wishing to make recommendations concerning the disposition of the application shall make written recommendations to the health systems agency in its area within 30 days of the publication of notice of the application.

(c) The health systems agency or agencies shall:

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(1) hold a public hearing in the municipality in which the service's base of operations is or will be located;

(2) provide notice of the public hearing in the newspaper or newspapers in which notice was published under part (a) for two successive weeks at least ten days before the date of the hearing;

(3) allow any interested person the opportunity to be heard, to be represented by counsel, and to present oral and written evidence at the public hearing;

(4) provide a transcript of the hearing at the expense of any individual requesting it; and

(5) follow any further procedure not inconsistent with chapter 14, which it deems appropriate.

(d) The health systems agency or agencies shall review and comment upon the application and shall make written recommendations as to its disposition to the commissioner within 90 days of receiving notice of the application. In making the recommendations, the health systems agency or agencies shall consider and make written comments as to whether the proposed service, change in base of operations, or expansion in primary service area is needed, based on consideration of the following factors:

(1) the relationship of the proposed service, change in base of operations or expansion in primary service area to current health systems and annual implementation plans;

(2) the recommendations or comments of the governing bodies of the counties and municipalities in which the service would be provided;

(3) the duplication, if any, of life support transportation services that would result from granting the license;

(4) the estimated effect of the proposed service, change in base of operation or expansion in primary service area on the public health;

(5) whether any benefit accruing to the public health would outweigh the costs associated with the proposed service, change in base of operations, or expansion in primary service area.

The health systems agency or agencies shall recommend that the commissioner either grant or deny a license or recommend that a modified license be granted. The reasons for the recommendation shall be set forth in detail. The health systems agency or agencies shall make the recommendations and reasons available to any individual requesting them.

Subd. 4. Within 30 days after receiving the health systems agency recommendations, the commissioner shall grant or deny a license to the applicant. In granting or denying a license, the commissioner shall consider the health systems agency recommendations, evidence contained in the application, any hearing record and other applicable evidence, and whether any benefit accruing to the public health would outweigh the costs associated with the proposed service, change in base of operations, or expansion in primary service area. If the commissioner's decision is different from the health systems agency recommendations, the commissioner shall set forth in detail the reasons for differing from the recommendations.

Subd. 5. The commissioner's decision made under subdivision 4 shall be the final administrative decision. Any person aggrieved by the commissioner's decision shall be entitled to judicial review in the manner provided in sections 14.63 to 14.70.

History: 1969 c 399 s 1; 1969 c 773 s 2; 1973 c 220 s 3; 1974 c 471 s 7; 1975 c 310 s 8; 1977 c 37 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 346 s 8; 1979 c 316 s 2; 1982 c 424 s 130

144.803 LICENSING; SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.

The commissioner may, after conducting a contested case hearing upon reasonable notice, suspend or revoke, or refuse to renew the license of a licensee upon finding that the licensee has violated sections 144.801 to 144.808 or has ceased to provide the service for which it is licensed.

History: 1969 c 773 s 3; 1977 c 37 s 3; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1979 c 316 s 3

144.804 STANDARDS.

Subdivision 1. No publicly or privately owned basic life support transportation service shall be operated in the state unless its drivers and attendants possess a current advanced American Red Cross first aid certificate or other first aid or emergency care certificate authorized by rules adopted by the state commissioner of health pursuant to chapter 14 or issued by the commissioner pursuant to section 214.13.

Subd. 2. Every ambulance offering life support transportation service shall be equipped with a stretcher and after August 1, 1979, a two-way radio communications system which is in accordance with the commissioner's statewide radio communications plan as promulgated in rule and carry the minimal equipment necessary for the type of service to be provided as determined by standards adopted by the commissioner pursuant to subdivision 3 and chapter 14. Each life support transportation service shall offer service 24 hours per day every day of the year, unless otherwise authorized by the commissioner, and each vehicle while in operation shall be staffed by a driver and an attendant. Drivers and attendants are authorized to use only equipment for which they are qualified by training. A life support transportation service may substitute a physician, osteopath or registered nurse for the attendant in an ambulance. Whenever a life support transportation service finds it impossible to arrange for an attendant to accompany the driver, the driver may proceed to answer an emergency call without an accompanying attendant, provided that the service shall make all reasonable efforts to arrange for an attendant to be present at the site of the emergency and enroute to a health care facility. An operator shall not deny life support transportation services to a person needing life support care because of ability to pay or source of payment for services if this need develops in the licensee's primary service area.

Subd. 3. Before April 1, 1980, the commissioner, in consultation with the appropriate standing committees of the legislature, shall promulgate as rules standards for the operation of the following types of life support transportation service:

(a) basic life support service, which shall have appropriate personnel, vehicles and equipment, and be maintained in a sanitary condition so as to ensure that life-threatening situations and potentially serious injuries can be recognized, patients will be protected from additional hazards, basic treatment to reduce the seriousness of emergency situations will be administered and patients will be transported to an appropriate medical facility for treatment;

(b) advanced life support service which shall have appropriate personnel, vehicles and equipment, and be maintained in a sanitary condition so as to provide medical care beyond the basic life support level, including, but not limited to, intubation, defibrillation and administration of intravenous fluids and certain pharmaceuticals;

(c) scheduled life support transportation service;

(d) life support transportation service provided by an employer for the benefit of its employees;

(e) life support transportation service operated by a nonprofit entity and limited exclusively to providing service by contract for specific events and meetings.

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An advanced life support ambulance may be used as a basic life support ambulance provided that its operation fulfills the standards promulgated pursuant to clause (a).

The standards promulgated under this subdivision shall take effect on June 1, 1980.

Subd. 4. Nothing in sections 144.801 to 144.806 shall prevent operation of a police emergency vehicle by one person nor affect any statute or regulatory authority vested in the department of public safety concerning automotive equipment and safety requirements.

Subd. 5. Local units of government may, with the approval of the commissioner, establish standards for life support transportation services which impose additional requirements upon such services. Local units of government intending to impose additional requirements shall consider whether any benefit accruing to the public health would outweigh the costs associated with the additional requirements. Local units of government which desire to impose such additional requirements shall, prior to promulgation of relevant ordinances, rules or regulations, furnish the commissioner with a copy of such proposed ordinances, rules or regulations, along with information which affirmatively substantiates that the proposed ordinances, rules or regulations: will in no way conflict with the relevant rules of the department of health; will establish additional requirements tending to protect the public health; will not diminish public access to life support transportation services of acceptable quality; and will not interfere with the orderly development of regional systems of emergency medical care. The commissioner shall base any decision to approve or disapprove such standards upon whether or not the local unit of government in question has affirmatively substantiated that the proposed ordinances, rules or regulations meet these criteria.

Subd. 6. The commissioner shall promulgate as rules standards particularizing the definition of primary service area under section 144.801, subdivision 9, under which the commissioner shall designate each licensed life support transportation service as serving a primary service area or areas.

History: 1969 c 773 s 4; 1973 c 220 s 4-6; 1976 c 166 s 7; 1976 c 202 s 1; 1977 c 37 s 4; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1979 c 316 s 4; 1982 c 424 s 130

144.805 CLASS C DRIVER'S LICENSE.

Any person driving an ambulance providing land transportation shall have a valid class C Minnesota driver's license.

History: 1969 c 773 s 5; 1977 c 37 s 5; 1979 c 316 s 5

144.806 PENALTIES.

Any person who violates a provision of sections 144.801 to 144.806 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: 1969 c 773 s 6

144.807 REPORTS.

Subdivision 1. **Reporting of information.** Operators of life support transportation services licensed pursuant to sections 144.801 to 144.806 shall report information about life support transportation service to the commissioner as the commissioner may require, excluding data relative to patient identification. All information shall be reported on forms prescribed by the commissioner for that purpose.

Subd. 2. **Failure to report.** Failure to report all information required by the commissioner shall constitute grounds for licensure revocation.

Subd. 3. **Reports confidential.** No reports made pursuant to this section shall be used as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, nor in any other proceeding except a proceeding involving the question of licensure. Information contained in the reports may only be disseminated to the extent prescribed by the commissioner.

History: 1974 c 300 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1979 c 316 s 6

144.808 INSPECTIONS.

The commissioner may inspect life support transportation services as frequently as deemed necessary. These inspections shall be for the purpose of determining whether the ambulance and equipment is clean and in proper working order and whether the operator is in compliance with sections 144.801 to 144.804 and any rules that the commissioner adopts related to sections 144.801 to 144.804.

History: 1977 c 37 s 6; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1979 c 316 s 7

144.809 RENEWAL OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN'S CERTIFICATE, FEE.

No fee set by the commissioner for biennial renewal of an emergency medical technician's certificate by a member of a volunteer life support transportation service or volunteer fire department shall exceed \$2.

History: 1977 c 37 s 7; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1979 c 316 s 8

144.8091 REIMBURSEMENT TO NONPROFIT AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. Any political subdivision, or nonprofit hospital or nonprofit corporation operating a licensed life support transportation service shall be reimbursed by the commissioner for the necessary expense of the initial training of a volunteer ambulance attendant upon successful completion by the attendant of a basic emergency care course, or a continuing education course for basic emergency care, or both, which has been approved by the commissioner, pursuant to section 144.804. Reimbursable expense may include tuition, transportation, food, lodging, hourly payment for time spent in the training course, and other necessary expenditures, except that in no instance shall a volunteer ambulance attendant be reimbursed more than \$210 for successful completion of a basic course, and \$70 for successful completion of a continuing education course.

Subd. 2. For purposes of this section, "volunteer ambulance attendant" means a person who provides emergency medical services for a licensed ambulance service without the expectation of remuneration and who does not depend in any way upon the provision of these services for the person's livelihood. An individual may be considered a volunteer ambulance attendant even though that individual receives an hourly stipend for each hour of actual service provision, except for hours on standby alert, even though this hourly stipend is regarded as taxable income for purposes of state or federal law, provided that this hourly stipend does not exceed \$500 in the year in which the individual received his training.

Subd. 3. Reimbursements authorized by subdivision 1 shall only be paid for volunteer ambulance attendants commencing and completing training after July 1, 1977.

History: 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 427 s 1; 1979 c 316 s 9

144.8092 REDESIGNATION OF EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES; TEMPORARY CONTINUATION OF EXISTING STANDARDS.

Each entity licensed as an emergency ambulance service on August 1, 1979 is hereby redesignated as a life support transportation service. Until the commissioner

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promulgates standards pursuant to section 144.804, the standards promulgated under Laws 1977, Chapter 37, Section 4, for emergency ambulance services shall apply to all life support transportation services.

History: 1979 c 316 s 10

ALCOHOLISM

144.81 [Repealed, 1973 c 572 s 18]

144.82 [Repealed, 1973 c 572 s 18]

144.83 [Repealed, 1967 c 893 s 5]

144.831 [Repealed, 1973 c 572 s 18]

144.832 [Repealed, 1973 c 572 s 18]

144.833 [Repealed, 1973 c 572 s 18]

144.834 [Repealed, 1973 c 572 s 18]

144.84 CIVIL SERVICE CLASSIFICATION.

The commissioner of employee relations and the civil service commission shall establish a classification to be known as "counsellor on alcoholism" the qualifications of which shall give recognition to the value and desirability of recovered alcoholics in performing the duties of their employment.

History: 1953 c 705 s 4; 1973 c 507 s 45; 1980 c 617 s 47

HUMAN GENETICS

144.91 POWERS AND DUTIES.

The state commissioner of health is authorized to develop and carry on a program in the field of human genetics which shall include the collection and interpretation of data relating to human hereditary diseases and pathologic conditions; the assembly, preparation and dissemination of informational material on the subject for professional counselors and the lay public; the conduct of such research studies as may stimulate reduction in the frequency of manifestation of various deleterious genes, and the provision of counseling services to the public on problems of human genetics. It shall consult and cooperate with the University of Minnesota, the public health service and the children's bureau of the department of health, education and welfare, and with nationally recognized scientific and professional organizations engaged in studying the problems of human genetics.

History: 1959 c 572 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45

144.92 GRANTS OR GIFTS.

The board is authorized to receive and expend in accordance with approved plans such funds as may be granted by the public health service or any other federal agency which may appropriate funds for this purpose, or such funds as may be received as gifts from private organizations and individuals to the state for carrying out the purposes of section 144.91.

History: 1959 c 572 s 2; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 78

144.93 [Repealed, 1973 c 250 s 2]

144.94 CYTOGENETICS LABORATORY.

The state commissioner of health is hereby required to maintain, staff, and operate a cytogenetics laboratory for the study of human chromosomes for the diagnosis and investigation of hereditary diseases. The laboratory services shall be available without charge to the patient upon recommendation of the referring physician if in the judgment of the commissioner the patient is without adequate funds to pay the cost. In other cases the commissioner shall charge and bill the patient for the cost of the diagnosis and investigation at the prevailing rate.

History: 1969 c 481 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45

- 144.951** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.952** Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1977 c 347 s 23]
 - Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
 - Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1977 c 347 s 23]
- 144.953** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.954** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.955** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.9555** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.956** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64; 1976 c 222 s 209]
- 144.957** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.958** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64; 1976 c 222 s 209]
- 144.959** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.96** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64; 1976 c 222 s 209]
- 144.961** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.962** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.963** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.964** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64]
- 144.965** [Repealed, 1976 c 173 s 64; 1976 c 222 s 209]