

## CHAPTER 144A

### NURSING HOMES

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#### 144A.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of sections 144A.01 to 144A.27, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner of health.** "Commissioner of health" means the state commissioner of health established by section 144.011.

Subd. 3. **Board of examiners.** "Board of examiners" means the board of examiners for nursing home administrators established by section 144A.19.

Subd. 3a. **Certified.** "Certified" means certified for participation as a provider in the Medicare or Medicaid programs under title XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act.

Subd. 4. **Controlling person.** "Controlling person" means any public body, governmental agency, business entity, officer, nursing home administrator, or director whose responsibilities include the direction of the management or policies of a nursing home. "Controlling person" also means any person who, directly or indirectly, beneficially owns any interest in:

- (a) Any corporation, partnership or other business association which is a controlling person;
- (b) The land on which a nursing home is located;
- (c) The structure in which a nursing home is located;
- (d) Any mortgage, contract for deed, or other obligation secured in whole or part by the land or structure comprising a nursing home; or

(e) Any lease or sublease of the land, structure, or facilities comprising a nursing home.

“Controlling person” does not include:

(a) A bank, savings bank, trust company, building and loan association, savings and loan association, credit union, industrial loan and thrift company, investment banking firm, or insurance company unless the entity directly or through a subsidiary operates a nursing home;

(b) An individual state official or state employee, or a member or employee of the governing body of a political subdivision of the state which operates one or more nursing homes, unless the individual is also an officer or director of a nursing home, receives any remuneration from a nursing home, or owns any of the beneficial interests not excluded in this subdivision;

(c) A natural person who is a member of a tax-exempt organization under section 290.05, subdivision 1, clause (i), unless the individual is also an officer or director of a nursing home, or owns any of the beneficial interests not excluded in this subdivision; and

(d) A natural person who owns less than five percent of the outstanding common shares of a corporation:

(1) whose securities are exempt by virtue of section 80A.15, subdivision 1, clause (f); or

(2) whose transactions are exempt by virtue of section 80A.15, subdivision 2, clause (b).

Subd. 4a. **Emergency.** “Emergency” means a situation or physical condition that creates or probably will create an immediate and serious threat to a resident’s health or safety.

Subd. 5. **Nursing home.** “Nursing home” means a facility or that part of a facility which provides nursing care to five or more persons. “Nursing home” does not include a facility or that part of a facility which is a hospital, a hospital with approved swing beds as defined in section 144.562, clinic, doctor’s office, diagnostic or treatment center, or a residential program licensed pursuant to sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 or 252.28.

Subd. 6. **Nursing care.** “Nursing care” means health evaluation and treatment of patients and residents who are not in need of an acute care facility but who require nursing supervision on an inpatient basis. The commissioner of health may by rule establish levels of nursing care.

Subd. 7. **Uncorrected violation.** “Uncorrected violation” means a violation of a statute or rule or any other deficiency for which a notice of noncompliance has been issued and fine assessed and allowed to be recovered pursuant to section 144A.10, subdivision 8.

Subd. 8. **Managerial employee.** “Managerial employee” means an employee of a nursing home whose duties include the direction of some or all of the management or policies of the nursing home.

Subd. 9. **Nursing home administrator.** “Nursing home administrator” means a person who administers, manages, supervises, or is in general administrative charge of a nursing home, whether or not the individual has an ownership interest in the home, and whether or not the person’s functions and duties are shared with one or more individuals, and who is licensed pursuant to section 144A.21.

Subd. 10. **Repeated violation.** “Repeated violation” means the issuance of two or more correction orders, within a 12-month period, for a violation of the same provision of a statute or rule.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1980 c 509 s 43; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 79; 1982 c 633 s 1; 1Sp1985 c 3 s 5-7; 1986 c 444; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 24; art 3 s 6,7

**144A.02 LICENSURE; PENALTY.**

Subdivision 1. No facility shall be used as a nursing home to provide nursing care unless the facility has been licensed as a nursing home. The commissioner of health may license a facility as a nursing home if the facility meets the criteria established by sections 144A.02 to 144A.10, and the rules promulgated thereunder. A license shall describe the facility to be licensed by address and by legal property description. The license shall specify the location and square footage of the floor space constituting the facility and shall incorporate by reference the plans and specifications of the facility, which plans and specifications shall be kept on file with the commissioner of health. The license may also specify the level or levels of nursing care which the facility is licensed to provide and shall state any conditions or limitations imposed on the facility in accordance with the rules of the commissioner of health.

Subd. 2. A controlling person of a nursing home in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any controlling person who had no legal authority to affect or change decisions related to the operation of the nursing home.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45

**144A.03 LICENSE APPLICATION.**

Subdivision 1. **Form; requirements.** The commissioner of health by rule shall establish forms and procedures for the processing of nursing home license applications. An application for a nursing home license shall include the following information:

- (a) The names and addresses of all controlling persons and managerial employees of the facility to be licensed;
- (b) The address and legal property description of the facility;
- (c) A copy of the architectural and engineering plans and specifications of the facility as prepared and certified by an architect or engineer registered to practice in this state; and
- (d) Any other relevant information which the commissioner of health by rule or otherwise may determine is necessary to properly evaluate an application for license.

A controlling person which is a corporation shall submit copies of its articles of incorporation and bylaws and any amendments thereto as they occur, together with the names and addresses of its officers and directors. A controlling person which is a foreign corporation shall furnish the commissioner of health with a copy of its certificate of authority to do business in this state. An application on behalf of a controlling person which is a corporation, association or a governmental unit or instrumentality shall be signed by at least two officers or managing agents of that entity.

Subd. 2. **Agents.** Each application for a nursing home license or for renewal of a nursing home license shall specify one or more controlling persons or managerial employees as agents:

- (a) Who shall be responsible for dealing with the commissioner of health on all matters provided for in sections 144A.01 to 144A.16; and
- (b) On whom personal service of all notices and orders shall be made, and who shall be authorized to accept service on behalf of all of the controlling persons of the facility, in proceedings under sections 144A.06; 144A.10, subdivisions 4, 5, and 7; 144A.11, subdivision 3; and 144A.15. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, personal service on the designated person or persons named in an application shall be deemed to be service on all of the controlling persons or managerial employee of the facility, and it shall not be a defense to any action arising under sections 144A.06; 144A.10, subdivisions 4, 5 and 7; 144A.11, subdivision 3; and 144A.15, that personal service was not made on each controlling person or managerial employee of the facility. The designation of one or more controlling persons or managerial employees pursuant to this subdivision shall not affect the legal responsibility of any other controlling person or managerial employee under sections 144A.01 to 144A.16.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 3; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1

**144A.04 QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE.**

Subdivision 1. **Compliance required.** No nursing home license shall be issued to a facility unless the commissioner of health determines that the facility complies with the requirements of this section.

Subd. 2. **Application.** The controlling persons of the facility must comply with the application requirements specified by section 144A.03 and the rules of the commissioner of health.

Subd. 2a. **Rules; locks.** The commissioner shall not adopt any rule unconditionally prohibiting locks on patient room doors in nursing homes. The commissioner may adopt a rule requiring locks to be consistent with the applicable rules enforced by the state fire marshal.

Subd. 3. **Standards.** The facility must meet the minimum health, sanitation, safety and comfort standards prescribed by the rules of the commissioner of health with respect to the construction, equipment, maintenance and operation of a nursing home. The commissioner of health may temporarily waive compliance with one or more of the standards if the commissioner determines that:

(a) Temporary noncompliance with the standard will not create an imminent risk of harm to a nursing home resident; and

(b) A controlling person on behalf of all other controlling persons:

(1) Has entered into a contract to obtain the materials or labor necessary to meet the standard set by the commissioner of health, but the supplier or other contractor has failed to perform the terms of the contract and the inability of the nursing home to meet the standard is due solely to that failure; or

(2) Is otherwise making a diligent good faith effort to meet the standard.

The commissioner of health shall allow, by rule, a nursing home to provide fewer hours of nursing care to intermediate care residents of a nursing home than required by the present rules of the commissioner if the commissioner determines that the needs of the residents of the home will be adequately met by a lesser amount of nursing care.

Subd. 3a. **Rules; double beds.** The commissioner shall not adopt any rule which unconditionally prohibits double beds in a nursing home. The commissioner may adopt rules setting criteria for when double beds will be allowed.

Subd. 4. **Controlling person restrictions.** (a) The controlling persons of a nursing home may not include any person who was a controlling person of another nursing home during any period of time in the previous two-year period:

(1) during which time of control that other nursing home incurred the following number of uncorrected or repeated violations:

(i) two or more uncorrected violations or one or more repeated violations which created an imminent risk to direct resident care or safety; or

(ii) four or more uncorrected violations or two or more repeated violations of any nature for which the fines are in the four highest daily fine categories prescribed in rule; or

(2) who was convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 90 days that relates to operation of the nursing home or directly affects resident safety or care, during that period.

(b) The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any controlling person who had no legal authority to affect or change decisions related to the operation of the nursing home which incurred the uncorrected violations.

Subd. 4a. **Stay of adverse action required by controlling person restrictions.** (a) In lieu of revoking, suspending, or refusing to renew the license of a nursing home with a controlling person disqualified by subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1), the commissioner may issue an order staying the revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of the nursing home license. The order may, but need not, be contingent upon the nursing home's compliance with restrictions and conditions imposed on the license to ensure the proper operation of the nursing home and to protect the health, safety, comfort,

treatment, and well-being of the residents in the home. The decision to issue an order for stay must be made within 90 days of the commissioner's determination that a controlling person is disqualified by subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1), from operating a nursing home.

(b) In determining whether to issue a stay and to impose conditions and restrictions, the commissioner shall consider the following factors:

(1) the ability of the controlling persons to operate other nursing homes in accordance with the licensure rules and laws;

(2) the conditions in the facility that received the number and type of uncorrected or repeated violations described in subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1); and

(3) the conditions and compliance history of each of the nursing homes operated by the controlling persons.

(c) The commissioner's decision to exercise the authority under this subdivision in lieu of revoking, suspending, or refusing to renew the license of the nursing home is not subject to administrative or judicial review.

(d) The order for the stay of revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal of the nursing home license must include any conditions and restrictions on the nursing home license that the commissioner deems necessary based upon the factors listed in paragraph (b).

(e) Prior to issuing an order for stay of revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal, the commissioner shall inform the controlling persons, in writing, of any conditions and restrictions that will be imposed. The controlling persons shall, within ten working days, notify the commissioner in writing of their decision to accept or reject the conditions and restrictions. If the nursing home rejects any of the conditions and restrictions, the commissioner shall either modify the conditions and restrictions or take action to suspend, revoke, or not renew the nursing home license.

(f) Upon issuance of the order for stay of revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal, the controlling persons shall be responsible for compliance with the conditions and restrictions contained therein. Any time after the conditions and restrictions have been in place for 180 days, the controlling persons may petition the commissioner for removal or modification of the conditions and restrictions. The commissioner shall respond to the petition within 30 days of the receipt of the written petition. If the commissioner denies the petition, the controlling persons may request a hearing under the provisions of chapter 14. Any hearing shall be limited to a determination of whether the conditions and restrictions shall be modified or removed. At the hearing, the controlling persons will have the burden of proof.

(g) The failure of the controlling persons to comply with the conditions and restrictions contained in the order for stay shall result in the immediate removal of the stay and the commissioner shall take action to suspend, revoke, or not renew the license.

(h) The conditions and restrictions are effective for two years after the date they are imposed.

(i) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to limit in any way the commissioner's ability to impose other sanctions against a nursing home license under the standards set forth in state or federal law whether or not a stay of revocation, suspension, or nonrenewal is issued.

**Subd. 5. Administrators.** Except as otherwise provided by this subdivision, a nursing home must have a full time licensed nursing home administrator serving the facility. In any nursing home of less than 25 beds, the director of nursing services may also serve as the licensed nursing home administrator. Two nursing homes under common ownership having a total of 150 beds or less and located within 75 miles of each other may share the services of a licensed administrator if the administrator divides full-time work week between the two facilities in proportion to the number of beds in each facility. Every nursing home shall have a person-in-charge on the premises at all times in the absence of the licensed administrator. The name of the person in charge must be posted in a conspicuous place in the facility. The commissioner of health shall by rule promulgate minimum education and experience requirements for persons-in-charge,

and may promulgate rules specifying the times of day during which a licensed administrator must be on the nursing home's premises. In the absence of rules adopted by the commissioner governing the division of an administrator's time between two nursing homes, the administrator shall designate and post the times the administrator will be on site in each home on a regular basis. A nursing home may employ as its administrator the administrator of a hospital licensed pursuant to sections 144.50 to 144.56 if the individual is licensed as a nursing home administrator pursuant to section 144A.20 and the nursing home and hospital have a combined total of 150 beds or less and are located within one mile of each other. A nonproprietary retirement home having fewer than 15 licensed nursing home beds may share the services of a licensed administrator with a nonproprietary nursing home, having fewer than 150 licensed nursing home beds, that is located within 25 miles of the retirement home. A nursing home which is located in a facility licensed as a hospital pursuant to sections 144.50 to 144.56, may employ as its administrator the administrator of the hospital if the individual meets minimum education and long term care experience criteria set by rule of the commissioner of health.

**Subd. 6. Managerial employee or licensed administrator; employment prohibitions.**

A nursing home may not employ as a managerial employee or as its licensed administrator any person who was a managerial employee or the licensed administrator of another facility during any period of time in the previous two-year period:

(a) During which time of employment that other nursing home incurred the following number of uncorrected violations which were in the jurisdiction and control of the managerial employee or the administrator:

(1) two or more uncorrected violations or one or more repeated violations which created an imminent risk to direct resident care or safety; or

(2) four or more uncorrected violations or two or more repeated violations of any nature for which the fines are in the four highest daily fine categories prescribed in rule; or

(b) who was convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 90 days that relates to operation of the nursing home or directly affects resident safety or care, during that period.

**Subd. 7. Minimum nursing staff requirement.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Minnesota Rules, part 4655.5600, the minimum staffing standard for nursing personnel in certified nursing homes is as follows:

(a) The minimum number of hours of nursing personnel to be provided in a nursing home is the greater of two hours per resident per 24 hours or 0.95 hours per standardized resident day.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, "hours of nursing personnel" means the paid, on-duty, productive nursing hours of all nurses and nursing assistants, calculated on the basis of any given 24-hour period. "Productive nursing hours" means all on-duty hours during which nurses and nursing assistants are engaged in nursing duties. Examples of nursing duties may be found in Minnesota Rules, parts 4655.5900, 4655.6100, and 4655.6400. Not included are vacations, holidays, sick leave, in-service classroom training, or lunches. Also not included are the nonproductive nursing hours of the in-service training director. In homes with more than 60 licensed beds, the hours of the director of nursing are excluded. "Standardized resident day" means the sum of the number of residents in each case mix class multiplied by the case mix weight for that resident class, as found in Minnesota Rules, part 9549.0059, subpart 2, calculated on the basis of a facility's census for any given day.

(c) Calculation of nursing hours per standardized resident day is performed by dividing total hours of nursing personnel for a given period by the total of standardized resident days for that same period.

(d) A nursing home that is issued a notice of noncompliance under section 144A.10, subdivision 5, for a violation of this subdivision, shall be assessed a civil fine of \$300 for each day of noncompliance, subject to section 144A.10, subdivisions 7 and 8.

**Subd. 8. Residents with AIDS or hepatitis.** A nursing home must accept as a resident a person who is infected with the human immunodeficiency virus or the hepatitis B virus unless the facility cannot provide appropriate care for the person under Minnesota Rules, part 4655.1500, subpart 2, or the person is otherwise not eligible for admission under state laws and rules.

**Subd. 9. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation training.** Effective October 1, 1989, a nursing home must have on duty at all times at least one staff member who is trained in single rescuer adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation and who has completed the initial training or a refresher course within the previous two years.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 4; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 326 s 2; 1978 c 536 s 1; 1981 c 23 s 3; 1981 c 24 s 2; 1982 c 614 s 3; 1982 c 633 s 2,3; 1983 c 312 art 1 s 17; 1Sp1985 c 3 s 8,9; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 35; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 8-10; 1990 c 498 s 1,2; 1991 c 169 s 1

#### **144A.05 LICENSE RENEWAL.**

Unless the license expires in accordance with section 144A.06 or is suspended or revoked in accordance with section 144A.11, a nursing home license shall remain effective for a period of one year from the date of its issuance. The commissioner of health by rule shall establish forms and procedures for the processing of license renewals. The commissioner of health shall approve a license renewal application if the facility continues to satisfy the requirements, standards and conditions prescribed by sections 144A.01 to 144A.16 and the rules promulgated thereunder. The commissioner shall not approve the renewal of a license for a nursing home bed in a resident room with more than four beds. Except as provided in section 144A.08, a facility shall not be required to submit with each application for a license renewal additional copies of the architectural and engineering plans and specifications of the facility. Before approving a license renewal, the commissioner of health shall determine that the facility's most recent balance sheet and its most recent statement of revenues and expenses, as audited by the state auditor, by a certified public accountant licensed by this state or by a public accountant as defined in section 412.222, have been received by the department of human services.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 5; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 326 s 3; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1987 c 403 art 4 s 2

#### **144A.06 TRANSFER OF INTERESTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Notice; expiration of license.** Any controlling person who makes any transfer of a beneficial interest in a nursing home shall notify the commissioner of health of the transfer within 14 days of its occurrence. The notification shall identify by name and address the transferor and transferee and shall specify the nature and amount of the transferred interest. On determining that the transferred beneficial interest exceeds ten percent of the total beneficial interest in the nursing home facility, the structure in which the facility is located, or the land upon which the structure is located, the commissioner may, and on determining that the transferred beneficial interest exceeds 50 percent of the total beneficial interest in the facility, the structure in which the facility is located, or the land upon which the structure is located, the commissioner shall require that the license of the nursing home expire 90 days after the date of transfer. The commissioner of health shall notify the nursing home by certified mail of the expiration of the license at least 60 days prior to the date of expiration.

**Subd. 2. Relicensure.** The commissioner of health by rule shall prescribe procedures for relicensure under this section. The commissioner of health shall relicensure a nursing home if the facility satisfies the requirements for license renewal established by section 144A.05. A facility shall not be relicensed by the commissioner if at the time of transfer there are any uncorrected violations. The commissioner of health may temporarily waive correction of one or more violations if the commissioner determines that:

(a) Temporary noncorrection of the violation will not create an imminent risk of harm to a nursing home resident; and

(b) A controlling person on behalf of all other controlling persons:

(1) Has entered into a contract to obtain the materials or labor necessary to correct the violation, but the supplier or other contractor has failed to perform the terms of the contract and the inability of the nursing home to correct the violation is due solely to that failure; or

(2) Is otherwise making a diligent good faith effort to correct the violation.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 6; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1986 c 444

#### **144A.07 FEES.**

Each application for a license to operate a nursing home, or for a renewal of license, except an application by the Minnesota veterans home or the commissioner of human services for the licensing of state institutions, shall be accompanied by a fee to be prescribed by the commissioner of health pursuant to section 144.122. No fee shall be refunded.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 7; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58

#### **144A.071 MORATORIUM ON CERTIFICATION OF NURSING HOME BEDS.**

**Subdivision 1. Findings.** The legislature finds that medical assistance expenditures are increasing at a much faster rate than the state's ability to pay them; that reimbursement for nursing home care and ancillary services comprises over half of medical assistance costs, and, therefore, controlling expenditures for nursing home care is essential to prudent management of the state's budget; that construction of new nursing homes and the addition of more nursing home beds to the state's long-term care resources inhibits the ability to control expenditures; that Minnesota already leads the nation in nursing home expenditures per capita, has the fifth highest number of beds per capita elderly, and that private paying individuals and medical assistance recipients have equivalent access to nursing home care; and that in the absence of a moratorium the increased numbers of nursing homes and nursing home beds will consume resources that would otherwise be available to develop a comprehensive long-term care system that includes a continuum of care. Unless action is taken, this expansion of bed capacity is likely to accelerate with the repeal of the certificate of need program effective March 15, 1984. The legislature also finds that Minnesota's dependence on institutional care for elderly persons is due in part to the dearth of alternative services in the home and community. The legislature also finds that further increases in the number of licensed nursing home beds, especially in nursing homes not certified for participation in the medical assistance program, is contrary to public policy, because: (1) nursing home residents with limited resources may exhaust their resources more rapidly in these facilities, creating the need for a transfer to a certified nursing home, with the concomitant risk of transfer trauma; (2) a continuing increase in the number of nursing home beds will foster continuing reliance on institutional care to meet the long-term care needs of residents of the state; (3) a further expansion of nursing home beds will diminish incentives to develop more appropriate and cost-effective alternative services and divert community resources that would otherwise be available to fund alternative services; (4) through corporate reorganization resulting in the separation of certified and licensed beds, a nursing home may evade the provisions of section 256B.48, subdivision 1, clause (a); and (5) it is in the best interests of the state to ensure that the long-term care system is designed to protect the private resources of individuals as well as to use state resources most effectively and efficiently.

The legislature declares that a moratorium on the licensure and medical assistance certification of new nursing home beds is necessary to control nursing home expenditure growth and enable the state to meet the needs of its elderly by providing high quality services in the most appropriate manner along a continuum of care.

**Subd. 2. Moratorium.** The commissioner of health, in coordination with the com-



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missioner of human services, shall deny each request by a nursing home or boarding care home, except an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, for addition of new certified beds or for a change or changes in the certification status of existing beds except as provided in subdivision 3. The total number of certified beds in the state shall remain at or decrease from the number of beds certified on May 23, 1983, except as allowed under subdivision 3. "Certified bed" means a nursing home bed or a boarding care bed certified by the commissioner of health for the purposes of the medical assistance program, under United States Code, title 42, sections 1396 et seq.

The commissioner of human services, in coordination with the commissioner of health, shall deny any request to issue a license under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 and 252.28 to a nursing home or boarding care home, if that license would result in an increase in the medical assistance reimbursement amount. The commissioner of health shall deny each request for licensure of nursing home beds except as provided in subdivision 3.

In addition, the commissioner of health must not approve any construction project whose cost exceeds \$500,000, or 25 percent of the facility's appraised value, whichever is less, unless the project:

- (1) has been approved through the process described in section 144A.073;
- (2) meets an exception in subdivision 3;
- (3) is necessary to correct violations of state or federal law issued by the commissioner of health;
- (4) is necessary to repair or replace a portion of the facility that was destroyed by fire, lightning, or other hazards provided that the provisions of subdivision 3, clause (g), are met; or
- (5) as of May 1, 1992, the facility has submitted to the commissioner of health written documentation evidencing that the facility meets the "commenced construction" definition as specified in subdivision 3, clause (b), or that substantial steps have been taken prior to April 1, 1992, relating to the construction project. "Substantial steps" require that the facility has made arrangements with outside parties relating to the construction project and include the hiring of an architect or construction firm, submission of preliminary plans to the department of health or documentation from a financial institution that financing arrangements for the construction project have been made.

Prior to the approval of any construction project, the commissioner of health shall be provided with an itemized cost estimate for the construction project. If a construction project is anticipated to be completed in phases, the total estimated cost of all phases of the project shall be submitted to the commissioner and shall be considered as one construction project. Once the construction project is completed and prior to the final clearance by the commissioner, the total actual costs for the construction project shall be submitted to the commissioner. If the final construction cost exceeds the threshold in this subdivision, the commissioner of human services shall not recognize any of the construction costs or the related financing costs in excess of this threshold in establishing the facility's property-related payment rate.

The commissioner of health shall adopt emergency or permanent rules to implement this section or to amend the emergency rules for granting exceptions to the moratorium on nursing homes under section 144A.073. The authority to adopt emergency rules continues to December 30, 1992.

**Subd. 3. Exceptions.** The commissioner of health, in coordination with the commissioner of human services, may approve the addition of a new certified bed or the addition of a new licensed nursing home bed, under the following conditions:

- (a) to replace a bed decertified after May 23, 1983, or to address an extreme hardship situation, in a particular county that, together with all contiguous Minnesota counties, has fewer nursing home beds per 1,000 elderly than the number that is ten percent higher than the national average of nursing home beds per 1,000 elderly individuals. For the purposes of this section, the national average of nursing home beds shall be the

most recent figure that can be supplied by the federal health care financing administration and the number of elderly in the county or the nation shall be determined by the most recent federal census or the most recent estimate of the state demographer as of July 1, of each year of persons age 65 and older, whichever is the most recent at the time of the request for replacement. In allowing replacement of a decertified bed, the commissioners shall ensure that the number of added or recertified beds does not exceed the total number of decertified beds in the state in that level of care. An extreme hardship situation can only be found after the county documents the existence of unmet medical needs that cannot be addressed by any other alternatives;

(b) to certify a new bed in a facility that commenced construction before May 23, 1983. For the purposes of this section, "commenced construction" means that all of the following conditions were met: the final working drawings and specifications were approved by the commissioner of health; the construction contracts were let; a timely construction schedule was developed, stipulating dates for beginning, achieving various stages, and completing construction; and all zoning and building permits were secured;

(c) to certify beds in a new nursing home that is needed in order to meet the special dietary needs of its residents, if: the nursing home proves to the commissioner's satisfaction that the needs of its residents cannot otherwise be met; elements of the special diet are not available through most food distributors; and proper preparation of the special diet requires incurring various operating expenses, including extra food preparation or serving items, not incurred to a similar extent by most nursing homes;

(d) to license a new nursing home bed in a facility that meets one of the exceptions contained in clauses (a) to (c);

(e) to license nursing home beds in a facility that has submitted either a completed licensure application or a written request for licensure to the commissioner before March 1, 1985, and has either commenced any required construction as defined in clause (b) before May 1, 1985, or has, before May 1, 1985, received from the commissioner approval of plans for phased-in construction and written authorization to begin construction on a phased-in basis. For the purpose of this clause, "construction" means any erection, building, alteration, reconstruction, modernization, or improvement necessary to comply with the nursing home licensure rules;

(f) to certify or license new beds in a new facility that is to be operated by the commissioner of veterans affairs or when the costs of constructing and operating the new beds are to be reimbursed by the commissioner of veterans affairs or the United States Veterans Administration;

(g) to license or certify beds in a new facility constructed to replace a facility that was destroyed after June 30, 1987, by fire, lightning, or other hazard provided:

(1) destruction was not caused by the intentional act of or at the direction of a controlling person of the facility;

(2) at the time the facility was destroyed the controlling persons of the facility maintained insurance coverage for the type of hazard that occurred in an amount that a reasonable person would conclude was adequate;

(3) the net proceeds from an insurance settlement for the damages caused by the hazard are applied to the cost of the new facility;

(4) the new facility is constructed on the same site as the destroyed facility or on another site subject to the restrictions in section 144A.073, subdivision 5; and

(5) the number of licensed and certified beds in the new facility does not exceed the number of licensed and certified beds in the destroyed facility;

(h) to license or certify beds that are moved from one location to another within a nursing home facility, provided the total costs of remodeling performed in conjunction with the relocation of beds does not exceed 25 percent of the appraised value of the facility or \$500,000, whichever is less, or to license or certify beds in a facility for which the total costs of remodeling or renovation exceed 25 percent of the appraised value of the facility or \$500,000, whichever is less, if the facility makes a written commitment to the commissioner of human services that it will not seek to receive an increase in its property-related payment rate by reason of the remodeling or renovation;

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(i) to license or certify beds in a facility that has been involuntarily delicensed or decertified for participation in the medical assistance program, provided that an application for relicensure or recertification is submitted to the commissioner within 120 days after delicensure or decertification;

(j) to license or certify beds in a project recommended for approval by the interagency long-term care planning committee under section 144A.073;

(k) to license nursing home beds in a hospital facility that are relocated from a different hospital facility under common ownership or affiliation, provided:

(1) the nursing home beds are not certified for participation in the medical assistance program; and

(2) the relocation of nursing home beds under this clause should not exceed a radius of six miles;

(1) to license or certify beds that are moved from one location to another within an existing identifiable complex of hospital buildings, from a hospital-attached nursing home to the hospital building, or from a separate nursing home to a building formerly used as a hospital, provided the original nursing home building will no longer be operated as a nursing home and the building to which the beds are moved will no longer be operated as a hospital. As a condition of receiving a license or certification under this clause, the facility must make a written commitment to the commissioner of human services that it will not seek to receive an increase in its property-related payment rate as a result of the relocation. At the time of the licensure and certification of the nursing home beds, the commissioner of health shall delicense the same number of acute care beds within the existing complex of hospital buildings or building. Relocation of nursing home beds under this clause is subject to the limitations in section 144A.073, subdivision 5;

(m) to license or certify beds that are moved from an existing state nursing home to a different state facility, provided there is no net increase in the number of state nursing home beds. The relocated beds need not be licensed and certified at the new location simultaneously with the delicensing and decertification of the old beds and may be licensed and certified at any time after the old beds are delicensed and decertified;

(n) to license new nursing home beds in a continuing care retirement community affiliated with a national referral center engaged in substantial programs of patient care, medical research, and medical education meeting state and national needs that receives more than 40 percent of its residents from outside the state for the purpose of meeting contractual obligations to residents of the retirement community, provided the facility makes a written commitment to the commissioner of human services that it will not seek medical assistance certification for the new beds;

(o) to certify or license new beds in a new facility on the Red Lake Indian Reservation for which payments will be made under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Public Law Number 94-437, at the rates specified in United States Code, title 42, section 1396d(b);

(p) to certify and license as nursing home beds boarding care beds in a certified boarding care facility if the beds meet the standards for nursing home licensure, or in a facility that was granted an exception to the moratorium under section 144A.073, and if the cost of any remodeling of the facility does not exceed 25 percent of the appraised value of the facility or \$500,000, whichever is less; or to license as nursing home beds boarding care beds in a facility with an addendum to its provider agreement effective beginning July 1, 1983, if the boarding care beds to be upgraded meet the standards for nursing home licensure. If boarding care beds are licensed as nursing home beds, the number of boarding care beds in the facility must not increase in the future. The provisions contained in section 144A.073 regarding the upgrading of the facilities do not apply to facilities that satisfy these requirements;

(q) to license and certify up to 40 beds transferred from an existing facility owned and operated by the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation in the city of Saint Paul to a new unit at the same location as the existing facility that will serve persons with Alzheimer's

disease and other related disorders. The transfer of beds may occur gradually or in stages, provided the total number of beds transferred does not exceed 40. At the time of licensure and certification of a bed or beds in the new unit, the commissioner of health shall delicense and decertify the same number of beds in the existing facility. As a condition of receiving a license or certification under this clause, the facility must make a written commitment to the commissioner of human services that it will not seek to receive an increase in its property-related payment rate as a result of the transfers allowed under this clause;

(r) to license and certify nursing home beds to replace currently licensed and certified boarding care beds which may be located either in a remodeled or renovated boarding care or nursing home facility or in a remodeled, renovated, newly constructed, or replacement nursing home facility within the identifiable complex of health care facilities in which the currently licensed boarding care beds are presently located, provided that the number of boarding care beds in the facility or complex are decreased by the number to be licensed as nursing home beds and further provided that, if the total costs of new construction, replacement, remodeling, or renovation exceed ten percent of the appraised value of the facility or \$200,000, whichever is less, the facility makes a written commitment to the commissioner of human services that it will not seek to receive an increase in its property-related payment rate by reason of the new construction, replacement, remodeling, or renovation. The provisions contained in section 144A.073 regarding the upgrading of facilities do not apply to facilities that satisfy these requirements;

(s) to license or certify beds that are moved from a nursing home to a separate facility under common ownership or control that was formerly licensed as a hospital and is currently licensed as a nursing facility and that is located within eight miles of the original facility, provided the original nursing home building will no longer be operated as a nursing home. As a condition of receiving a license or certification under this clause, the facility must make a written commitment to the commissioner of human services that it will not seek to receive an increase in its property-related payment rate as a result of the relocation;

(t) to license as a nursing home and certify as a nursing facility a facility that is licensed as a boarding care facility but not certified under the medical assistance program, but only if the commissioner of human services certifies to the commissioner of health that licensing the facility as a nursing home and certifying the facility as a nursing facility will result in a net annual savings to the state general fund of \$200,000 or more;

(u) to certify, after September 30, 1992, and prior to July 1, 1993, existing nursing home beds in a facility that was licensed and in operation prior to January 1, 1992;

(v) to license and certify new nursing home beds to replace beds in a facility condemned as part of an economic redevelopment plan in a city of the first class, provided the new facility is located within one mile of the site of the old facility. Operating and property costs for the new facility must be determined and allowed under existing reimbursement rules; or

(w) to license and certify up to 20 new nursing home beds in a community-operated hospital and attached convalescent and nursing care facility with 40 beds on April 21, 1991, that suspended operation of the hospital in April 1986. The commissioner of human services shall provide the facility with the same per diem property-related payment rate for each additional licensed and certified bed as it will receive for its existing 40 beds.

Subd. 3a. [Repealed, 1992 c 513 art 7 s 135]

Subd. 4. **Monitoring.** The commissioner of health, in coordination with the commissioner of human services, shall implement mechanisms to monitor and analyze the effect of the moratorium in the different geographic areas of the state. The commissioner of health shall submit to the legislature, no later than January 15, 1984, and annually thereafter, an assessment of the impact of the moratorium by geographic area, with particular attention to service deficits or problems and a corrective action plan.

**Subd. 5. Report.** The commissioner of the state planning agency, in consultation with the commissioners of health and human services, shall report to the senate health and human services committee and the house health and welfare committee by January 15, 1986 and biennially thereafter regarding:

- (1) projections on the number of elderly Minnesota residents including medical assistance recipients;
- (2) the number of residents most at risk for nursing home placement;
- (3) the needs for long-term care and alternative home and noninstitutional services;
- (4) availability of and access to alternative services by geographic region; and
- (5) the necessity or desirability of continuing, modifying, or repealing the moratorium in relation to the availability and development of the continuum of long-term care services.

**History:** 1983 c 199 s 1; 1983 c 289 s 115 subd 1; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1984 c 655 art 1 s 28; 1Sp1985 c 3 s 10-12; 1987 c 186 s 15; 1987 c 403 art 4 s 3; 1Sp1987 c 4 art 2 s 1; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 36; 1989 c 209 art 2 s 1; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 11; 1990 c 472 s 1; 1990 c 612 s 6; 1991 c 93 s 1; 1991 c 292 art 4 s 1,2; art 7 s 25 subd 1,3; 1992 c 513 art 7 s 2,3

#### **144A.073 REVIEW OF PROPOSALS REQUIRING EXCEPTIONS TO THE MORATORIUM.**

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

- (a) "Conversion" means the relocation of a nursing home bed from a nursing home to an attached hospital.
- (b) "Renovation" means extensive remodeling of, or construction of an addition to, a facility on an existing site with a total cost exceeding ten percent of the appraised value of the facility or \$200,000, whichever is less.
- (c) "Replacement" means the demolition or reconstruction of all or part of an existing facility.
- (d) "Upgrading" means a change in the level of licensure of a bed from a boarding care bed to a nursing home bed in a certified boarding care facility.

**Subd. 2. Request for proposals.** At the intervals specified in rules, the interagency committee shall publish in the State Register a request for proposals for nursing home projects to be licensed or certified under section 144A.071, subdivision 3, clause (j). The notice must describe the information that must accompany a request and state that proposals must be submitted to the interagency committee within 90 days of the date of publication. The notice must include the amount of the legislative appropriation available for the additional costs to the medical assistance program of projects approved under this section. If no money is appropriated for a year, the notice for that year must state that proposals will not be requested because no appropriations were made. To be considered for approval, a proposal must include the following information:

- (1) whether the request is for renovation, replacement, upgrading, or conversion;
- (2) a description of the problem the project is designed to address;
- (3) a description of the proposed project;
- (4) an analysis of projected costs, including initial construction and remodeling costs, site preparation costs, financing costs, and estimated operating costs during the first two years after completion of the project;
- (5) for proposals involving replacement of all or part of a facility, the proposed location of the replacement facility and an estimate of the cost of addressing the problem through renovation;
- (6) for proposals involving renovation, an estimate of the cost of addressing the problem through replacement;

(7) the proposed timetable for commencing construction and completing the project; and

(8) other information required by rule of the commissioner of health.

**Subd. 3. Review and approval of proposals.** Within the limits of money specifically appropriated to the medical assistance program for this purpose, the interagency committee for quality assurance may recommend that the commissioner of health grant exceptions to the nursing home licensure or certification moratorium for proposals that satisfy the requirements of this section. The interagency committee shall appoint an advisory review panel composed of representatives of consumers and providers to review proposals and provide comments and recommendations to the committee. The commissioners of human services and health shall provide staff and technical assistance to the committee for the review and analysis of proposals. The interagency committee shall hold a public hearing before submitting recommendations to the commissioner of health on project requests. The committee shall submit recommendations within 150 days of the date of the publication of the notice, based on a comparison and ranking of proposals using the criteria in subdivision 4. The commissioner of health shall approve or disapprove a project within 30 days after receiving the committee's recommendations. The cost to the medical assistance program of the proposals approved must be within the limits of the appropriations specifically made for this purpose. Approval of a proposal expires 18 months after approval by the commissioner of health unless the facility has commenced construction as defined in section 144A.071, subdivision 3, paragraph (b). The committee's report to the legislature, as required under section 144A.31, must include the projects approved, the criteria used to recommend proposals for approval, and the estimated costs of the projects, including the costs of initial construction and remodeling, and the estimated operating costs during the first two years after the project is completed.

**Subd. 3a. Extension of approval of a project requiring an exception to the nursing home moratorium.** Notwithstanding subdivision 3, a construction project that was approved by the commissioner under the moratorium exception approval process in this section prior to July 1, 1992, may be commenced more than 18 months after the date of the commissioner's approval but no later than July 1, 1994, or 12 months after the effective date of a nursing home property-related payment system enacted to replace the current rate freeze in section 256B.431, subdivision 12, whichever is later.

**Subd. 4. Criteria for review.** (a) The following criteria must be used to compare and evaluate all proposals submitted:

(1) the extent to which the average occupancy rate of the facility supports the need for the proposed project;

(2) the extent to which the average occupancy rate of all facilities in the county in which the applicant is located, together with all contiguous Minnesota counties, supports the need for the proposed project;

(3) the extent to which the proposal furthers state long-term care goals, including the goal of enhancing the availability and use of alternative care services and the goal of reducing the number of long-term care resident rooms with more than two beds;

(4) the cost effectiveness of the proposal, including the proposal's long-term effects on the costs of the medical assistance program, as determined by the commissioner of human services; and

(5) other factors developed in rule by the commissioner of health that evaluate and assess how the proposed project will further promote or protect the health, safety, comfort, treatment, or well-being of the facility's residents.

(b) In addition to the criteria in paragraph (a), the following criteria must be used to evaluate, compare, and rank proposals involving renovation or replacement:

(1) the extent to which the project improves conditions that affect the health or safety of residents, such as narrow corridors, narrow door frames, unenclosed fire exits, and wood frame construction, and similar provisions contained in fire and life safety codes and licensure and certification rules;

(2) the extent to which the project improves conditions that affect the comfort or quality of life of residents in a facility or the ability of the facility to provide efficient care, such as a relatively high number of residents in a room; inadequate lighting or ventilation; poor access to bathing or toilet facilities; a lack of available ancillary space for dining rooms, day rooms, or rooms used for other activities; problems relating to heating, cooling, or energy efficiency; inefficient location of nursing stations; narrow corridors; or other provisions contained in the licensure and certification rules.

**Subd. 5. Replacement restrictions.** (a) Proposals submitted or approved under this section involving replacement must provide for replacement of the facility on the existing site except as allowed in this subdivision.

(b) Facilities located in a metropolitan statistical area other than the Minneapolis-St. Paul seven-county metropolitan area may relocate to a site within the same census tract or a contiguous census tract.

(c) Facilities located in the Minneapolis-St. Paul seven-county metropolitan area may relocate to a site within the same or contiguous health planning area as adopted in March 1982 by the metropolitan council.

(d) Facilities located outside a metropolitan statistical area may relocate to a site within the same city or township, or within a contiguous township.

(e) A facility relocated to a different site under paragraph (b), (c), or (d) must not be relocated to a site more than six miles from the existing site.

(f) The relocation of part of an existing first facility to a second location, under paragraphs (d) and (e), may include the relocation to the second location of up to four beds from part of an existing third facility located in a township contiguous to the location of the first facility. The six-mile limit in paragraph (e) does not apply to this relocation from the third facility.

**Subd. 6. Conversion restrictions.** Proposals submitted or approved under this section involving conversion must satisfy the following conditions:

(a) Conversion is limited to a total of five beds.

(b) An equivalent number of hospital beds must be delicensed.

(c) The average occupancy rate in the existing nursing home beds must be greater than 96 percent according to the most recent annual statistical report of the department of health.

(d) The cost of remodeling the hospital rooms to meet current nursing home construction standards must not exceed ten percent of the appraised value of the nursing home or \$200,000, whichever is less.

(e) The conversion must not result in an increase in operating costs.

**Subd. 7. Upgrading restrictions.** Proposals submitted or approved under this section involving upgrading must satisfy the following conditions:

(a) The facility must meet minimum nursing home care standards.

(b) If beds are upgraded to nursing home beds, the number of boarding care beds in a facility must not increase in the future.

(c) The average occupancy rate in the existing nursing home beds in an attached facility must be greater than 96 percent according to the most recent annual statistical report of the department of health.

**Subd. 8. Rulemaking.** The commissioner of health shall adopt emergency or permanent rules to implement this section. The authority to adopt emergency rules continues until December 30, 1988.

**History:** 1987 c 403 art 4 s 4; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 37-39; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 12; 1990 c 568 art 3 s 4; 1992 c 292 art 7 s 25; 1992 c 513 art 7 s 4-6

#### 144A.08 PHYSICAL STANDARDS; PENALTY.

**Subdivision 1. Establishment.** The commissioner of health by rule shall establish minimum standards for the construction, maintenance, equipping and operation of

nursing homes. The rules shall to the extent possible assure the health, treatment, comfort, safety and well being of nursing home residents.

Subd. 1a. **Corridor doors.** Nothing in the rules of the commissioner of health shall require that each door entering a sleeping room from a corridor in a nursing home with an approved complete standard automatic fire extinguishing system be constructed or maintained as self-closing or automatically closing.

Subd. 1b. **Summer temperature and humidity.** A nursing home, or part of a nursing home that includes resident-occupied space, constructed after June 30, 1988, must meet the interior summer design temperature and humidity recommendations in chapter 7 of the 1982 applications of the handbook published by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc., as amended.

Subd. 2. **Report.** The controlling persons of a nursing home shall, in accordance with rules established by the commissioner of health, within 14 days of the occurrence, notify the commissioner of health of any change in the physical structure of a nursing home, which change would affect compliance with the rules of the commissioner of health or with sections 144A.01 to 144A.16.

Subd. 3. **Penalty.** Any controlling person who establishes, conducts, manages or operates a nursing home which incurs the following number of uncorrected or repeated violations, in any two-year period:

(a) two or more uncorrected violations or one or more repeated violations which created an imminent risk to direct resident care or safety; or

(b) four or more uncorrected violations or two or more repeated violations of any nature for which the fines are in the four highest daily fine categories prescribed in rule, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to any controlling person who had no legal authority to affect or change decisions as to the operation of the nursing home which incurred the uncorrected or repeated violations.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 8; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1981 c 360 art 2 s 5; 1982 c 633 s 4; 1Sp1985 c 3 s 13; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 40

#### 144A.09 FACILITIES EXCLUDED.

Subdivision 1. **Church of Christ, Scientist.** No rule established under sections 144A.01 to 144A.16 other than a rule relating to sanitation and safety of premises, to cleanliness of operation or to physical equipment, shall apply to a nursing home conducted in accordance with the teachings of the body known as the Church of Christ, Scientist.

Subd. 2. **Religious society or order.** The provisions of sections 144A.01 to 144A.27 shall not apply to a facility operated by a religious society or order to provide nursing care to 20 or fewer nonlay members of the order or society.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 9; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1

#### 144A.10 INSPECTION; COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH; FINES.

Subdivision 1. **Enforcement authority.** The commissioner of health is the exclusive state agency charged with the responsibility and duty of inspecting all facilities required to be licensed under section 144A.02. The commissioner of health shall enforce the rules established pursuant to sections 144A.01 to 144A.16, subject only to the authority of the department of public safety respecting the enforcement of fire and safety standards in nursing homes and the responsibility of the commissioner of human services under sections 245A.01 to 245A.16 or 252.28.

The commissioner may request and must be given access to relevant information, records, incident reports, or other documents in the possession of a licensed facility if the commissioner considers them necessary for the discharge of responsibilities. For the purposes of inspections and securing information to determine compliance with the licensure laws and rules, the commissioner need not present a release, waiver, or con-



sent of the individual. The identities of patients or residents must be kept private as defined by section 13.02, subdivision 12.

**Subd. 2. Inspections.** The commissioner of health shall inspect each nursing home to ensure compliance with sections 144A.01 to 144A.16 and the rules promulgated to implement them. The inspection shall be a full inspection of the nursing home. If upon a reinspection provided for in subdivision 5 the representative of the commissioner of health finds one or more uncorrected violations, a second inspection of the facility shall be conducted. The second inspection need not be a full inspection. No prior notice shall be given of an inspection conducted pursuant to this subdivision. Any employee of the commissioner of health who willfully gives or causes to be given any advance notice of an inspection required or authorized by this subdivision shall be subject to suspension or dismissal in accordance with chapter 43A. An inspection required by a federal rule or statute may be conducted in conjunction with or subsequent to any other inspection. Any inspection required by this subdivision may be in addition to or in conjunction with the reinspections required by subdivision 5. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit the commissioner of health from making more than one unannounced inspection of any nursing home during its license year. The commissioner of health shall coordinate inspections of nursing homes with inspections by other state and local agencies consistent with the requirements of this section and the Medicare and Medicaid certification programs.

The commissioner shall conduct inspections and reinspections of health facilities 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 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. Reports; posting.** After each inspection or reinspection required or authorized by this section, the commissioner of health shall, by certified mail, send copies of any correction order or notice of noncompliance to the nursing home. A copy of each correction order and notice of noncompliance, and copies of any documentation supplied to the commissioner of health or the commissioner of human services under section 144A.03 or 144A.05 shall be kept on file at the nursing home and shall be made available for viewing by any person upon request. Except as otherwise provided by this subdivision, a copy of each correction order and notice of noncompliance received by the nursing home after its most recent inspection or reinspection shall be posted in a conspicuous and readily accessible place in the nursing home. No correction order or notice of noncompliance need be posted until any appeal, if one is requested by the facility, pursuant to subdivision 8, has been completed. All correction orders and notices of noncompliance issued to a nursing home owned and operated by the state or political subdivision of the state shall be circulated and posted at the first public meeting of the governing body after the order or notice is issued. Confidential information protected by section 13.05 or 13.46, shall not be made available or posted as provided in this subdivision unless it may be made available or posted in a manner authorized by chapter 13.

**Subd. 4. Correction orders.** Whenever a duly authorized representative of the commissioner of health finds upon inspection of a nursing home, that the facility or a controlling person or an employee of the facility is not in compliance with sections 144.411 to 144.417, 144.651, 144A.01 to 144A.16, or 626.557 or the rules promulgated thereun-

der, a correction order shall be issued to the facility. The correction order shall state the deficiency, cite the specific rule or statute violated, state the suggested method of correction, and specify the time allowed for correction. If the commissioner finds that the nursing home had uncorrected or repeated violations which create a risk to resident care, safety, or rights, the commissioner shall notify the commissioner of human services who shall require the facility to use any efficiency incentive payments received under section 256B.431, subdivision 2b, paragraph (d), to correct the violations and shall require the facility to forfeit incentive payments for failure to correct the violations as provided in section 256B.431, subdivision 2p. The forfeiture shall not apply to correction orders issued for physical plant deficiencies.

Subd. 4a. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 3 s 98]

**Subd. 5. Reinspections.** A nursing home issued a correction order under this section shall be reinspected at the end of the period allowed for correction. The reinspection may be made in conjunction with the next annual inspection or any other scheduled inspection. If upon reinspection the representative of the commissioner of health determines that the facility has not corrected a violation identified in the correction order, a notice of noncompliance with the correction order shall be mailed by certified mail to the nursing home. The notice shall specify the violations not corrected and the fines assessed in accordance with subdivision 6.

**Subd. 6. Fines.** A nursing home which is issued a notice of noncompliance with a correction order shall be assessed a civil fine in accordance with a schedule of fines established by the commissioner of health before December 1, 1983. In establishing the schedule of fines, the commissioner shall consider the potential for harm presented to any resident as a result of noncompliance with each statute or rule. The fine shall be assessed for each day the facility remains in noncompliance and until a notice of correction is received by the commissioner of health in accordance with subdivision 7. No fine for a specific violation may exceed \$500 per day of noncompliance.

Subd. 6a. [Repealed, 1989 c 155 s 5]

**Subd. 6b. Fines for federal certification deficiencies.** If the commissioner determines that a nursing home or certified boarding care home does not meet a requirement of section 1919(b), (c), or (d), of the Social Security Act, or any regulation adopted under that section of the Social Security Act, the nursing home or certified boarding care home may be assessed a civil fine for each day of noncompliance and until a notice of correction is received by the commissioner under subdivision 7. Money collected because of these fines must be applied to the protection of the health or property of residents of nursing facilities the commissioner finds deficient. A fine for a specific deficiency may not exceed \$500 for each day of noncompliance. The commissioner shall adopt rules establishing a schedule of fines.

**Subd. 6c. Overlap of fines.** If a nursing home is subject to fines under both subdivisions 6 and 6b for the same requirement, condition, situation, or practice, the commissioner shall assess either the fine provided by subdivision 6 or the fine provided by subdivision 6b.

**Subd. 6d. Schedule of fines.** (a) The schedule of fines for noncompliance with correction orders issued to nursing homes that was adopted under the provisions of section 144A.10, subdivision 6, and in effect on May 1, 1989, is effective until repealed, modified, or superseded by rule.

(b) By September 1, 1990, the commissioner shall amend the schedule of fines to increase to \$250 the fines for violations of section 144.651, subdivisions 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, and 30, and for repeated violations.

(c) The commissioner shall adopt rules establishing the schedule of fines for deficiencies in the requirements of section 1919(b), (c), and (d), of the Social Security Act, or regulations adopted under that section of the Social Security Act.

**Subd. 7. Accumulation of fines.** A nursing home shall promptly notify the commissioner of health in writing when a violation noted in a notice of noncompliance is corrected. Upon receipt of written notification by the commissioner of health, the daily

fine assessed for the deficiency shall stop accruing. The facility shall be reinspected within three working days after receipt of the notification. If upon reinspection the representative of the commissioner of health determines that a deficiency has not been corrected as indicated by the notification of compliance the daily fine assessment shall resume and the amount of fines which otherwise would have accrued during the period prior to resumption shall be added to the total assessment due from the nursing home. The commissioner of health shall notify the nursing home of the resumption by certified mail. The nursing home may challenge the resumption as a contested case in accordance with the provisions of chapter 14. Recovery of the resumed fine shall be stayed if a controlling person or a legal representative on behalf of the nursing home makes a written request for a hearing on the resumption within 15 days of receipt of the notice of resumption. The cost of a reinspection conducted pursuant to this subdivision shall be added to the total assessment due from the nursing home.

**Subd. 8. Recovery of fines; hearing.** Fines assessed under this section shall be payable 15 days after receipt of the notice of noncompliance and at 15 day intervals thereafter, as the fines accrue. Recovery of an assessed fine shall be stayed if a controlling person or a legal representative on behalf of the nursing home makes a written request for a hearing on the notice of noncompliance within 15 days after the home's receipt of the notice. A hearing under this subdivision shall be conducted as a contested case in accordance with chapter 14. If a nursing home, after notice and opportunity for hearing on the notice of noncompliance, or on the resumption of the fine, does not pay a properly assessed fine in accordance with this subdivision, the commissioner of health shall notify the commissioner of human services who shall deduct the amount from reimbursement moneys due or to be due the facility under chapter 256B. The commissioner of health may consolidate the hearings provided for in subdivisions 7 and 8 in cases in which a facility has requested hearings under both provisions. The hearings provided for in subdivisions 7 and 8 shall be held within 30 days after the request for the hearing. If a consolidated hearing is held, it shall be held within 30 days of the request which occurred last.

**Subd. 8a. Fine for misallocation of nursing staff.** Upon issuing a correction order to a nursing home under subdivision 4 for a violation of Minnesota Rules, part 4655.5600, because of nursing staff performing duties such as washing wheelchairs or beds of discharged residents, or other housekeeping or laundry duties not related to the direct nursing care of residents, the commissioner shall impose a civil fine of \$500 per day. A fine under this subdivision accrues in accordance with subdivision 6 and is subject to subdivision 8 for purposes of recovery and hearings.

**Subd. 8b. Resident advisory council.** Each nursing home or boarding care home shall establish a resident advisory council and a family council, unless fewer than three persons express an interest in participating. If one or both councils do not function, the nursing home or boarding care home shall document its attempts to establish the council or councils at least once each calendar year. This subdivision does not alter the rights of residents and families provided by section 144.651, subdivision 27. A nursing home or boarding care home that is issued a notice of noncompliance with a correction order for violation of this subdivision shall be assessed a civil fine of \$100 for each day of noncompliance.

**Subd. 9. Nonlimiting.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the powers granted to the commissioner of health by section 144A.11.

**Subd. 10. Reporting to a medical examiner or coroner.** Whenever a duly authorized representative of the commissioner of health has reasonable cause to believe that a resident has died as a direct or indirect result of abuse or neglect, the representative shall report that information to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner and police department or county sheriff. The medical examiner or coroner shall complete an investigation as soon as feasible and report the findings to the police department or county sheriff, and to the commissioner of health.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 10; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 326 s 4,5; 1980 c 509 s 44; 1981 c 210 s 54; 1981 c 311 s 39; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 12; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1982 c 545 s 24;

*1982 c 633 s 5; 1983 c 199 s 2-4; 1983 c 312 art 1 s 18; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1Sp1985 c 3 s 14-16; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 209 s 26,27; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1989 c 209 art 2 s 1; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 13-17; 1991 c 286 s 5,6; 1991 c 292 art 4 s 3*

#### **144A.103 PENALTY FOR DEATH OF A RESIDENT.**

**Subdivision 1. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, "abuse" and "neglect" have the meanings given in section 626.557, subdivision 2, paragraphs (d) and (e).

**Subd. 2. Penalty.** Whenever the commissioner substantiates that a situation existed that constituted abuse or neglect by a nursing home and that could foreseeably result in death or injury to a resident, and the abuse or neglect contributed to the resident's death, the nursing home must be assessed a civil fine of \$1,000. The assessment of a fine under this section does not preclude the use of any other remedy.

**Subd. 3. Recovery of fines; hearing.** A nursing home that is assessed a fine under this section must pay the fine no later than 15 days after receipt of the notice of assessment. The assessment shall be stayed if the nursing home makes a written request for a hearing on the assessment within 15 days after receipt of the notice of assessment. After submission of a timely request, a hearing must be conducted as a contested case hearing under chapter 14 no later than 30 days after the request. If a nursing home does not pay the fine as required by this section, the commissioner of health shall notify the commissioner of human services, who shall deduct the amount of the fine from reimbursement payments due or to be due the nursing home under chapter 256B.

**History:** *1989 c 282 art 3 s 18*

#### **144A.105 SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS.**

**Subdivision 1. Circumstances for suspensions.** The commissioner of health may suspend admissions to a nursing home or certified boarding care home when:

(1) the commissioner has issued a penalty assessment or the nursing home has a repeated violation for noncompliance with section 144A.04, subdivision 7, or the portion of Minnesota Rules, part 4655.5600, subpart 2, that establishes minimum nursing personnel requirements;

(2) the commissioner has issued a penalty assessment or the nursing home or certified boarding care home has repeated violations for not maintaining a sufficient number or type of nursing personnel to meet the needs of the residents, as required by Minnesota Rules, parts 4655.5100 to 4655.6200;

(3) the commissioner has determined that an emergency exists;

(4) the commissioner has initiated proceedings to suspend, revoke, or not renew the license of the nursing home or certified boarding care home; or

(5) the commissioner determines that the remedy of denial of payment, as provided by subparagraph 1919(h)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act, is to be imposed under section 1919(h) of the Social Security Act, or regulations adopted under that section of the Social Security Act.

**Subd. 2. Order.** If the commissioner suspends admissions under subdivision 1, the commissioner shall notify the nursing home or certified boarding care home, by written order, that admissions to the nursing home or certified boarding care home will be suspended beginning at a time specified in the order. The suspension is effective no earlier than 48 hours after the nursing home or certified boarding care home receives the order, unless the order is due to an emergency under subdivision 1, clause (3). The order may be served on the administrator of the nursing home or certified boarding care home, or the designated agent in charge of the home, by personal service or by certified or registered mail with a return receipt of delivery. The order shall specify the reasons for the suspension, the corrective action required to be taken by the nursing home or certified boarding care home, and the length of time the suspension will be in effect. The nursing home or certified boarding care home shall not admit any residents after the effective time of the order. In determining the length of time for the suspension, the commissioner shall consider the reasons for the suspension, the performance history of the nursing home, and the needs of the residents.

Subd. 3. **Conference.** After receiving the order for suspension, the nursing home or certified boarding care home may request a conference with the commissioner to present reasons why the suspension should be modified or should not go into effect. The request need not be in writing. If a conference is requested within 24 hours after receipt of the order, the commissioner shall hold the conference before the effective time of the suspension, unless the order for suspension is due to an emergency under subdivision 1, clause (3). If a conference is not requested within 24 hours after receipt of the order, the nursing home or certified boarding care home may request a conference and the commissioner shall schedule the conference as soon as practicable. The conference may be held in person or by telephone. After a conference, the commissioner may affirm, rescind, or modify the order.

Subd. 4. **Correction.** The nursing home or certified boarding care home shall notify the commissioner, in writing, when any required corrective action has been completed. The commissioner may verify the corrective action by inspection under section 144A.10. The commissioner may extend the initial suspension period by written notice to the nursing home or certified boarding care home.

Subd. 5. **Notification of commissioner of human services.** Whenever the commissioner suspends admissions to a nursing home or certified boarding care home, the commissioner shall notify the commissioner of human services of the order and of any modifications to the order.

Subd. 6. **Hearing.** A nursing home or certified boarding care home may appeal from an order for suspension of admissions issued under subdivision 1. To appeal, the nursing home or certified boarding care home shall file with the commissioner a written notice of appeal. The appeal must be received by the commissioner within ten days after the date of receipt of the order for suspension by the nursing home or certified boarding care home. Within 15 calendar days after receiving an appeal, the commissioner shall request assignment of an administrative law judge under sections 14.48 to 14.56 to conduct the hearing as soon as possible or according to agreement of the parties. Regardless of any appeal, the order for suspension of admissions remains in effect until final resolution of the appeal.

**History:** 1989 c 282 art 3 s 19

#### **144A.11 LICENSE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION; HEARING; RELICENSING.**

Subdivision 1. **Optional proceedings.** The commissioner of health may institute proceedings to suspend or revoke a nursing home license, or may refuse to grant or renew the license of a nursing home if any action by a controlling person or employee of the nursing home:

- (a) Violates any of the provisions of sections 144A.01 to 144A.08, 144A.13 or 144A.16, or the rules promulgated thereunder;
- (b) Permits, aids, or abets the commission of any illegal act in the nursing home;
- (c) Performs any act contrary to the welfare of a patient or resident of the nursing home; or
- (d) Obtains, or attempts to obtain, a license by fraudulent means or misrepresentation.

Subd. 2. **Mandatory proceedings.** The commissioner of health shall initiate proceedings within 60 days of notification to suspend or revoke a nursing home license or shall refuse to renew a license if within the preceding two years the nursing home has incurred the following number of uncorrected or repeated violations:

- (1) two or more uncorrected violations or one or more repeated violations which created an imminent risk to direct resident care or safety; or
- (2) four or more uncorrected violations or two or more repeated violations of any nature for which the fines are in the four highest daily fine categories prescribed in rule.

Subd. 2a. **Notice to residents.** Within five working days after proceedings are initi-

ated by the commissioner to revoke, suspend, or not renew a nursing home license, the controlling person of the nursing home or a designee must provide to the commissioner and the ombudsman for older Minnesotans the names of residents and the names and addresses of the residents' guardians, representatives, and designated family contacts. The controlling person or designees must provide updated information each month until the proceeding is concluded. If the controlling person or designee fails to provide the information within this time, the nursing home is subject to the issuance of a correction order and penalty assessment under sections 144.653 and 144A.10. Notwithstanding those sections, any correction order issued under this subdivision must require that the facility immediately comply with the request for information and that as of the date of the issuance of the correction order, the facility shall forfeit to the state a \$100 fine the first day of noncompliance and an increase in the \$100 fine by \$50 increments for each day the noncompliance continues. Information provided under this subdivision may be used by the commissioner or the ombudsman only for the purpose of providing affected consumers information about the status of the proceedings. Within ten working days after the commissioner initiates proceedings to revoke, suspend, or not renew a nursing home license, the commissioner of health shall send a written notice of the action and the process involved to each resident of the nursing home and the resident's legal guardian, representative, or designated family contact. The commissioner shall provide the ombudsman with monthly information on the department's actions and the status of the proceedings.

**Subd. 3. Hearing.** No nursing home license may be suspended or revoked, and renewal may not be denied, without a hearing held as a contested case in accordance with chapter 14. The hearing must commence within 60 days after the proceedings are initiated. If the controlling person designated under section 144A.03, subdivision 2, as an agent to accept service on behalf of all of the controlling persons of the nursing home has been notified by the commissioner of health that the facility will not receive an initial license or that a license renewal has been denied, the controlling person or a legal representative on behalf of the nursing home may request and receive a hearing on the denial. This hearing shall be held as a contested case in accordance with chapter 14.

**Subd. 3a. Mandatory revocation.** Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 3, the commissioner shall revoke a nursing home license if a controlling person is convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 90 days that relates to operation of the nursing home or directly affects resident safety or care. The commissioner shall notify the nursing home 30 days in advance of the date of revocation.

**Subd. 4. Relicensing.** If a nursing home license is revoked a new application for license may be considered by the commissioner of health when the conditions upon which revocation was based have been corrected and satisfactory evidence of this fact has been furnished to the commissioner of health. A new license may be granted after an inspection has been made and the facility has been found to comply with all provisions of sections 144A.01 to 144A.16 and the rules promulgated thereunder.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 11; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1982 c 633 s 6,7; 1Sp1985 c 3 s 17,18; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 20,21

#### 144A.115 VIOLATIONS; PENALTIES.

**Subdivision 1. Operating without a license.** The operation of a facility providing services required to be licensed under sections 144A.02 to 144A.10 without a license is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$300.

**Subd. 2. Advertising without a license.** A person or entity that advertises a facility required to be licensed under sections 144A.02 to 144A.10 before obtaining a license is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**Subd. 3. Other sanctions.** The sanctions in this section do not restrict other available sanctions.

**History:** 1987 c 209 s 28

**144A.12 INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; SUBPOENAS.**

**Subdivision 1. Injunctive relief.** In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the commissioner of health may bring an action in the district court in Ramsey or Hennepin county or in the district in which a nursing home is located to enjoin a controlling person or an employee of the nursing home from illegally engaging in activities regulated by sections 144A.01 to 144A.16. A temporary restraining order may be granted by the court in the proceeding if continued activity by the controlling person or employee would create an imminent risk of harm to a resident of the facility.

**Subd. 2. Subpoenas.** In all matters pending before the commissioner under sections 144A.01 to 144A.16, the commissioner of health shall have the power to issue subpoenas and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of all necessary papers, books, records, documents and other evidentiary material. Any person failing or refusing to appear or testify regarding any matter about which that person may be lawfully questioned or to produce any papers, books, records, documents or evidentiary materials in the matter to be heard, after having been required by order of the commissioner of health or by a subpoena of the commissioner of health to do so may, upon application by the commissioner of health to the district court in any district, be ordered by the court to comply therewith. The commissioner of health may issue subpoenas and may administer oaths to witnesses, or take their affirmation. Depositions may be taken within or without the state in the manner provided by law for the taking of depositions in civil actions. A subpoena or other process or paper may be served upon any named person anywhere within the state by any officer authorized to serve subpoenas in civil actions, with the same fees and mileage and in the same manner as prescribed by law for process issued out of the district court of this state. Fees and mileage and other costs of persons subpoenaed by the commissioner of health shall be paid in the same manner as for proceedings in district court.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 12; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 22

**144A.13 COMPLAINTS; RESIDENT'S RIGHTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Processing.** All matters relating to the operation of a nursing home which are the subject of a written complaint from a resident and which are received by a controlling person or employee of the nursing home shall be delivered to the facility's administrator for evaluation and action. Failure of the administrator within seven days of its receipt to resolve the complaint, or alternatively, the failure of the administrator to make a reply within seven days after its receipt to the complaining resident stating that the complaint did not constitute a valid objection to the nursing home's operations, shall be a violation of section 144A.10. If a complaint directly involves the activities of a nursing home administrator, the complaint shall be resolved in accordance with this section by a person, other than the administrator, duly authorized by the nursing home to investigate the complaint and implement any necessary corrective measures.

**Subd. 2. Resident's rights.** The administrator of a nursing home shall inform each resident in writing at the time of admission of the right to complain to the administrator about facility accommodations and services. A notice of the right to complain shall be posted in the nursing home. The administrator shall also inform each resident of the right to complain to the commissioner of health. No controlling person or employee of a nursing home shall retaliate in any way against a complaining nursing home resident and no nursing home resident may be denied any right available to the resident under chapter 566.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 13; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1986 c 444

**144A.135 TRANSFER AND DISCHARGE APPEALS.**

(a) The commissioner shall establish a mechanism for hearing appeals on transfers and discharges of residents by nursing homes or boarding care homes licensed by the

commissioner. The commissioner may adopt permanent rules to implement this section.

(b) Until federal regulations are adopted under sections 1819(f)(3) and 1919(f)(3) of the Social Security Act that govern appeals of the discharges or transfers of residents from nursing homes and boarding care homes certified for participation in Medicare or medical assistance, the commissioner shall provide hearings under sections 14.57 to 14.62 and the rules adopted by the office of administrative hearings governing contested cases. To appeal the discharge or transfer, or notification of an intended discharge or transfer, a resident or the resident's representative must request a hearing in writing no later than 30 days after receiving written notice, which conforms to state and federal law, of the intended discharge or transfer.

(c) Hearings under this section shall be held no later than 14 days after receipt of the request for hearing, unless impractical to do so or unless the parties agree otherwise. Hearings shall be held in the facility in which the resident resides, unless impractical to do so or unless the parties agree otherwise.

(d) A resident who timely appeals a notice of discharge or transfer, and who resides in a certified nursing home or boarding care home, may not be discharged or transferred by the nursing home or boarding care home until resolution of the appeal. The commissioner can order the facility to readmit the resident if the discharge or transfer was in violation of state or federal law. If the resident is required to be hospitalized for medical necessity before resolution of the appeal, the facility shall readmit the resident unless the resident's attending physician documents, in writing, why the resident's specific health care needs cannot be met in the facility.

(e) The commissioner and office of administrative hearings shall conduct the hearings in compliance with the federal regulations described in paragraph (b), when adopted.

(f) Nothing in this section limits the right of a resident or the resident's representative to request or receive assistance from the office of ombudsman for older Minnesotans or the office of health facility complaints with respect to an intended discharge or transfer.

*History: 1989 c 282 art 3 s 26; 1991 c 286 s 7*

#### **144A.14 VOLUNTARY RECEIVERSHIP.**

A majority in interest of the controlling persons of a nursing home may at any time request the commissioner of health to assume the operation of the nursing home through appointment of a receiver. Upon receiving a request for a receiver, the commissioner of health may, if the commissioner deems receivership desirable, enter into an agreement with a majority in interest of the controlling persons, providing for the appointment of a receiver to take charge of the facility under conditions deemed appropriate by both parties. The agreement shall specify all terms and conditions of the receivership and shall preserve all rights of the facility residents as granted by law. A receivership initiated in accordance with this section shall terminate at the time specified by the parties or at the time when either party notifies the other in writing that the party wishes to terminate the receivership agreement.

*History: 1976 c 173 s 14; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1986 c 444*

#### **144A.15 INVOLUNTARY RECEIVERSHIP.**

**Subdivision 1. Petition, notice.** In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the commissioner of health may petition the district court in Ramsey or Hennepin county or in the district in which a nursing home or certified boarding care home is located for an order directing the controlling persons of the nursing home or certified boarding care home to show cause why the commissioner of health or a designee should not be appointed receiver to operate the facility. The petition to the district court shall contain proof by affidavit that the commissioner of health has either commenced license suspension or revocation proceedings, suspended or revoked a license, or



decided not to renew the nursing home license, or that violations of section 1919(b), (c), or (d), of the Social Security Act, or the regulations adopted under that section, or violations of state law or rules, create an emergency. The order to show cause shall be returnable not less than five days after service is completed and shall provide for personal service of a copy to the nursing home administrator and to the persons designated as agents by the controlling persons to accept service on their behalf pursuant to section 144A.03, subdivision 2.

**Subd. 2. Appointment of receiver, rental.** If, after hearing, the court finds that involuntary receivership is necessary as a means of protecting the health, safety or welfare of a resident of a nursing home, the court shall appoint the commissioner of health, or any other person designated by the commissioner of health, as a receiver to take charge of the facility. The court shall determine a fair monthly rental for the facility, taking into account all relevant factors including the condition of the facility. This rental fee shall be paid by the receiver to the appropriate controlling persons for each month that the receivership remains in effect. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no payment made to a controlling person by any state agency during a period of involuntary receivership shall include any allowance for profit or be based on any formula which includes an allowance for profit.

**Subd. 2a. Emergency procedure.** If it appears from the petition filed under subdivision 1, or from an affidavit or affidavits filed with the petition, or from testimony of witnesses under oath when the court determines that this is necessary, that there is probable cause to believe that an emergency exists in a nursing home or certified boarding care home, the court shall issue a temporary order for appointment of a receiver within five days after receipt of the petition. Notice of the petition shall be served personally on the nursing home administrator and on the persons designated as agents by the controlling persons to accept service on their behalf according to section 144A.03, subdivision 2. A hearing on the petition shall be held within five days after notice is served unless the administrator or designated agent consents to a later date. After the hearing, the court may continue, modify, or terminate the temporary order.

**Subd. 3. Powers and duties of receiver.** A nursing home receiver appointed pursuant to this section shall with all reasonable speed, but in any case, within 18 months after the receivership order, provide for the orderly transfer of all the nursing home's residents to other facilities or make other provisions for their continued safety and health care. The receiver may correct or eliminate those deficiencies in the facility which seriously endanger the life, health or safety of the residents unless the correction or elimination of deficiencies involves major alterations in the physical structure of the nursing home. The receiver shall, during this period, operate the nursing home in a manner designed to guarantee the safety and adequate health care of the residents. The receiver shall take no action which impairs the legal rights of a resident of the nursing home. The receiver shall have power to make contracts and incur lawful expenses. The receiver shall collect incoming payments from all sources and apply them to the cost incurred in the performance of the receiver's functions. No security interest in any real or personal property comprising the nursing home or contained within it, or in any fixture of the facility, shall be impaired or diminished in priority by the receiver. The receiver shall pay all valid obligations of the nursing home and shall deduct these expenses, if appropriate, from rental payments owed to any controlling person by virtue of the receivership.

**Subd. 4. Receiver's fee; liability; commissioner assistance.** A nursing home receiver appointed pursuant to this section shall be entitled to a reasonable receiver's fee as determined by the court. The receiver shall be liable only in an official capacity for injury to person and property by reason of the conditions of the nursing home. The receiver shall not be personally liable, except for gross negligence and intentional acts. The commissioner of health shall assist the receiver in carrying out these duties.

**Subd. 5. Termination.** An involuntary receivership imposed pursuant to this section shall terminate 18 months after the date on which it was ordered or at any other time designated by the court or upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (a) A determination by the commissioner of health that the nursing home's license should be renewed or should not be suspended or revoked;
- (b) The granting of a new license to the nursing home; or
- (c) A determination by the commissioner of health that all of the residents of the nursing home have been provided alternative health care, either in another facility or otherwise.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1992 c 513 art 8 s 59]

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 15; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1986 c 444; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 23-25

#### **144A.154 RATE RECOMMENDATION.**

The commissioner may recommend to the commissioner of human services a review of the rates for a nursing home or boarding care home that participates in the medical assistance program that is in voluntary or involuntary receivership, and that has needs or deficiencies documented by the department of health. If the commissioner of health determines that a review of the rate under section 256B.495 is needed, the commissioner shall provide the commissioner of human services with:

- (1) a copy of the order or determination that cites the deficiency or need; and
- (2) the commissioner's recommendation for additional staff and additional annual hours by type of employee and additional consultants, services, supplies, equipment, or repairs necessary to satisfy the need or deficiency.

**History:** 1992 c 513 art 7 s 7

#### **144A.155 PLACEMENT OF MONITOR.**

Subdivision 1. **Authority.** The commissioner may place a person to act as a monitor in a nursing home or certified boarding care home in any of the circumstances listed in clause (1) or (2):

(1) in any situation for which a receiver may be appointed under section 144A.15; or

(2) when the commissioner determines that violations of sections 144.651, 144A.01 to 144A.16, 626.557, or section 1919(b), (c), or (d), of the Social Security Act, or rules or regulations adopted under those provisions, require extended surveillance to enforce compliance or protect the health, safety, or welfare of the residents.

Subd. 2. **Duties of monitor.** The monitor shall observe the operation of the home, provide advice to the home on methods of complying with state and federal rules and regulations, where documented deficiencies from the regulations exist, and periodically shall submit a written report to the commissioner on the ways in which the home meets or fails to meet state and federal rules and regulations.

Subd. 3. **Selection of monitor.** The commissioner may select as monitor an employee of the department or may contract with any other individual to serve as a monitor. The commissioner shall publish a notice in the State Register that requests proposals from individuals who wish to be considered for placement as monitors and that sets forth the criteria for selecting individuals as monitors. The commissioner shall maintain a list of individuals who are not employees of the department who are interested in serving as monitors. The commissioner may contract with those individuals determined to be qualified.

Subd. 4. **Payment of monitor.** A nursing home or certified boarding care home in which a monitor is placed shall pay to the department the actual costs associated with the placement, unless payment would create an undue hardship for the home.

**History:** 1989 c 282 art 3 s 27

#### **144A.16 CESSATION OF OPERATIONS.**

If a nursing home voluntarily plans to cease operations or to curtail operations to the extent that relocation of residents is necessary, the controlling persons of the facility shall notify the commissioner of health at least 90 days prior to the scheduled cessation

or curtailment. The commissioner of health shall cooperate with and advise the controlling persons of the nursing home in the resettlement of residents. Failure to comply with this section shall be a violation of section 144A.10.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 16; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1987 c 209 s 29

**144A.17** [Repealed, 1983 c 260 s 68]

**144A.18 ADMINISTRATOR'S LICENSES; PENALTY.**

No person shall act as a nursing home administrator or purport to be a nursing home administrator unless that person is licensed by the board of examiners for nursing home administrators. A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 18; 1986 c 444

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
FOR ADMINISTRATORS**

**144A.19 BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR ADMINISTRATORS.**

**Subdivision 1. Creation; membership.** There is hereby created the board of examiners for nursing home administrators which shall consist of the following members:

- (a) A designee of the commissioner of health who shall be a nonvoting member;
- (b) The commissioner of human services, or a designee who shall be a nonvoting member; and
- (c) The following members appointed by the governor:
  - (1) Two members actively engaged in the management, operation, or ownership of proprietary nursing homes;
  - (2) Two members actively engaged in the management or operation of nonprofit nursing homes;
  - (3) One member actively engaged in the practice of medicine;
  - (4) One member actively engaged in the practice of professional nursing; and
  - (5) Three public members as defined in section 214.02.

**Subd. 2. Provisions.** Membership terms, compensation of members, removal of members, the filling of membership vacancies, fiscal year and reporting requirements, the provision of staff, administrative services and office space, the review and processing of complaints, the setting of board fees and other provisions relating to board operations for the board of examiners shall be as provided in chapter 214.

**Subd. 3. Administration.** The provision of staff, administrative services and office space, the review and processing of complaints; the setting of board fees; and other provisions relating to board operations shall be as provided in chapter 214.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 19; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 347 s 24; 1977 c 444 s 10; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444

**144A.20 ADMINISTRATOR QUALIFICATIONS.**

**Subdivision 1. Criteria.** The board of examiners may issue licenses to qualified persons as nursing home administrators, and shall establish qualification criteria for nursing home administrators. No license shall be issued to a person as a nursing home administrator unless that person:

- (a) Is at least 18 years of age and otherwise suitably qualified;
- (b) Has satisfactorily met standards set by the board of examiners, which standards shall be designed to assure that nursing home administrators will be individuals who, by training or experience are qualified to serve as nursing home administrators; and
- (c) Has passed an examination approved by the board and designed to test for

competence in the subject matters referred to in clause (b), or has been approved by the board of examiners through the development and application of other appropriate techniques.

Subd. 2. **Exception.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no person desiring to be licensed to administer a nursing home operated exclusively in accordance with the teachings of the body known as the Church of Christ, Scientist, shall be required to demonstrate proficiency in any medical technique or meet any medical educational qualification or medical standard which is not in accord with the type of remedial care and treatment provided in a nursing home operated exclusively in accordance with the teachings of that body.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 20; 1986 c 444

#### 144A.21 ADMINISTRATOR LICENSES.

Subdivision 1. **Transferability.** A nursing home administrator's license shall not be transferable.

Subd. 2. **Rules; renewal.** The board of examiners by rule shall establish forms and procedures for the processing of license renewals. A nursing home administrator's license may be renewed only in accordance with the standards adopted by the board of examiners pursuant to section 144A.24.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1977 c 444 s 21]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1977 c 444 s 21]

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 21; 1977 c 444 s 11

#### 144A.22 ORGANIZATION OF BOARD.

The board of examiners shall elect from its membership a chair, vice-chair and secretary-treasurer, and shall adopt rules to govern its proceedings. Except as otherwise provided by law the board of examiners shall employ and fix the compensation and duties of an executive director and other necessary personnel to assist it in the performance of its duties. The executive director shall not be a member of the board of examiners.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 22; 1985 c 247 s 25; 1986 c 444

#### 144A.23 JURISDICTION OF BOARD.

Except as provided in section 144A.04, subdivision 5, the board of examiners shall have exclusive authority to determine the qualifications, skill and fitness required of any person to serve as an administrator of a nursing home. The holder of a license shall be deemed fully qualified to serve as the administrator of a nursing home.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 23

#### 144A.24 DUTIES OF THE BOARD.

The board of examiners shall:

(a) Develop and enforce standards for nursing home administrator licensing, which standards shall be designed to assure that nursing home administrators will be individuals of good character who, by training or experience, are suitably qualified to serve as nursing home administrators;

(b) Develop appropriate techniques, including examinations and investigations, for determining whether applicants and licensees meet the board's standards;

(c) Issue licenses to those individuals who are found to meet the board's standards;

(d) Establish and implement procedures designed to assure that individuals licensed as nursing home administrators will comply with the board's standards;

(e) Receive, investigate, and take appropriate action consistent with chapter 214, to revoke or suspend the license of a nursing home administrator who fails to comply with sections 144A.18 to 144A.27 or the board's standards;

(f) Conduct a continuing study and investigation of nursing homes, and the administrators of nursing homes within the state, with a view to the improvement of the standards imposed for the licensing of administrators and improvement of the procedures and methods used for enforcement of the board's standards; and

(g) Approve or conduct courses of instruction or training designed to prepare individuals for licensing in accordance with the board's standards. Courses designed to meet license renewal requirements shall be designed solely to improve professional skills and shall not include classroom attendance requirements exceeding 50 hours per year. The board may approve courses conducted within or without this state.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 24; 1980 c 509 s 45

#### 144A.25 [Repealed, 1977 c 444 s 21]

#### 144A.251 MANDATORY PROCEEDINGS.

In addition to its discretionary authority to initiate proceedings under section 144A.24 and chapter 214, the board of examiners shall initiate proceedings to suspend or revoke a nursing home administrator license or shall refuse to renew a license if within the preceding two year period the administrator was employed at a nursing home which during the period of employment incurred the following number of uncorrected violations, which violations were in the jurisdiction and control of the administrator and for which a fine was assessed and allowed to be recovered:

(a) Two or more uncorrected violations which created an imminent risk of harm to a nursing home resident; or

(b) Ten or more uncorrected violations of any nature.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 26; 1977 c 444 s 12; 1986 c 444

#### 144A.26 RECIPROCITY WITH OTHER STATES.

The board of examiners may issue a nursing home administrator's license, without examination, to any person who holds a current license as a nursing home administrator from another jurisdiction if the board finds that the standards for licensure in the other jurisdiction are at least the substantial equivalent of those prevailing in this state and that the applicant is otherwise qualified.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 27

#### 144A.27 ACTING ADMINISTRATORS.

If a licensed nursing home administrator is removed from the position by death or other unexpected cause, the controlling persons of the nursing home suffering the removal may designate an acting nursing home administrator who shall secure an acting administrator's license within 30 days of appointment as the acting administrator.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 28; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 403 art 4 s 5

#### 144A.28 SEVERABILITY.

Any part of sections 144A.18 to 144A.27 which is in conflict with any act of congress of the United States or any rule of a federal agency, so as to deprive nursing homes of this state of federal funds, shall be deemed void without affecting the remaining provisions of sections 144A.18 to 144A.27.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 29

#### 144A.29 CONTINUITY OF RULES; AUTHORITY.

Subdivision 1. **Effective dates.** The provisions of any rule affecting nursing homes or nursing home administrators heretofore promulgated in accordance with chapter 144, or hereafter promulgated in accordance with subdivision 2, shall remain effective with respect to nursing homes and nursing home administrators until repealed, modified or superseded by a rule promulgated in accordance with Laws 1976, chapter 173.

**Subd. 2. Proceedings; application of law.** Any investigation, disciplinary hearing, court action or other proceeding affecting a nursing home or nursing home administrator heretofore initiated by the commissioner of health or board of examiners in accordance with chapter 144, shall be conducted and completed in accordance with that chapter as it existed prior to January 1, 1977. Proceedings heretofore initiated by the commissioner of health or board of examiners leading to the establishment of a rule affecting nursing homes or nursing home administrators may be continued and the rule may be promulgated in accordance with heretofore existing law, notwithstanding any other provision of Laws 1976, chapter 173.

**Subd. 3. Fines.** As soon as possible after April 7, 1976, the commissioner of health shall by rule establish a schedule of fines in accordance with section 144A.10, subdivision 6.

**Subd. 4. Statement required.** Each rule promulgated by the commissioner of health pursuant to sections 144A.01 to 144A.16 shall contain a short statement of the anticipated costs and benefits to be derived from the provisions of the rule.

**History:** 1976 c 173 s 30; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1991 c 199 art 1 s 38,39

#### **144A.30 PETS IN NURSING HOMES.**

Nursing homes 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 1

#### **144A.31 INTERAGENCY LONG-TERM CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE.**

**Subdivision 1. Interagency long-term care planning committee.** The commissioners of health and human services shall establish, by July 1, 1983, an interagency committee of managerial employees of their respective departments who are knowledgeable and employed in the areas of long-term care, geriatric care, community services for the elderly, long-term care facility inspection, or quality of care assurance. The number of interagency committee members shall not exceed twelve; four members each to represent the commissioners of health and human services and one member each to represent the commissioners of state planning, housing finance, finance, and the chair of the Minnesota board on aging. The commissioner of human services and the commissioner of health or their designees shall annually alternate chairing and convening the committee. The committee may utilize the expertise and time of other individuals employed by each department as needed. The committee may recommend that the commissioners contract for services as needed. The committee shall meet as often as necessary to accomplish its duties, but at least quarterly. The committee shall establish procedures, including public hearings, for allowing regular opportunities for input from consumers of long-term care services, advocates, trade associations, facility administrators, county agency administrators, and other interested persons.

**Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1991 c 292 art 7 s 26]**

**Subd. 2a. Duties.** The interagency committee shall identify long-term care issues requiring coordinated interagency policies and shall conduct analyses, coordinate policy development, and make recommendations to the commissioners for effective implementation of these policies. The committee shall refine state long-term goals, establish performance indicators, and develop other methods or measures to evaluate program performance, including client outcomes. The committee shall review the effectiveness of programs in meeting their objectives.

The committee shall also:

- (1) facilitate the development of regional and local bodies to plan and coordinate regional and local services;
- (2) recommend a single regional or local point of access for persons seeking information on long-term care services;
- (3) recommend changes in state funding and administrative policies that are nec-

essary to maximize the use of home and community-based care and that promote the use of the least costly alternative without sacrificing quality of care;

(4) develop methods of identifying and serving seniors who need minimal services to remain independent but who are likely to develop a need for more extensive services in the absence of these minimal services; and

(5) develop and implement strategies for advocating, promoting, and developing long-term care insurance and encourage insurance companies to offer long-term care insurance policies that are affordable and offer a wide range of benefits.

**Subd. 2b. Goals of the committee.** The long-term goals of the committee are:

(1) to achieve a broad awareness and use of low-cost home care and other residential alternatives to nursing homes;

(2) to develop a statewide system of information and assistance to enable easy access to long-term care services;

(3) to develop sufficient alternatives to nursing homes to serve the increased number of people needing long-term care; and

(4) to maintain the moratorium on new construction of nursing home beds and to lower the percentage of elderly served in institutional settings.

These goals are designed to create a new community-based care paradigm for long-term care in Minnesota in order to maximize independence of the older adult population, and to ensure cost-effective use of financial and human resources.

**Subd. 3.** [Repealed, 1991 c 292 art 7 s 26]

**Subd. 4. Enforcement.** The committee shall develop and recommend for implementation effective methods of enforcing quality of care standards. The committee shall develop and monitor, and the commissioner of human services shall implement, a resident relocation plan that instructs a county in which a nursing home or certified boarding care home is located of procedures to ensure that the needs of residents in nursing homes or certified boarding care homes about to be closed are met. The duties of a county under the relocation plan also apply when residents are to be discharged from a nursing home or certified boarding care home as a result of a change in certification, closure, or loss or termination of the facility's medical assistance provider agreement. The resident relocation plans and county duties required in this subdivision apply to the voluntary or involuntary closure, or reduction in services or size of, an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded. The relocation plan for intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded must conform to Minnesota Rules, parts 4655.6810 to 4655.6830, 9525.0015 to 9525.0165, and 9546.0010 to 9546.0060, or their successors. The commissioners of health and human services may waive a portion of existing rules that the commissioners determine does not apply to persons with mental retardation or related conditions. The county shall ensure appropriate placement of residents in licensed and certified facilities or other alternative care such as home health care and foster care placement. In preparing for relocation, the committee shall ensure that residents and their families or guardians are involved in planning the relocation.

**Subd. 5. Reports.** The committee shall prepare a biennial report and the commissioners of health and human services shall deliver this report to the legislature beginning January 31, 1993, listing progress, achievements, and current goals and objectives. The commissioners shall recommend changes in or additions to legislation necessary or desirable to fulfill their responsibilities.

**Subd. 6. Data.** The interagency committee shall have access to data from the commissioners of health, human services, housing finance, and state planning for carrying out its duties under this section. The commissioner of health and the commissioner of human services may each have access to data on persons, including data on vendors of services, from the other to carry out the purposes of this section. If the interagency committee, the commissioner of health, or the commissioner of human services receives data on persons, including data on vendors of services, that is collected, maintained, used or disseminated in an investigation, authorized by statute and relating to

enforcement of rules or law, the committee or the commissioner shall not disclose that information except:

- (a) pursuant to section 13.05;
- (b) pursuant to statute or valid court order; or
- (c) to a party named in a civil or criminal proceeding, administrative or judicial, for preparation of defense.

Data described in this subdivision is classified as public data upon its submission to an administrative law judge or court in an administrative or judicial proceeding.

**Subd. 7. Long-term care research and data base.** The interagency long-term care planning committee shall collect and analyze state and national long-term care data and research, including relevant health data and information and research relating to long-term care and social needs, service utilization, costs, and client outcomes. The committee shall make recommendations to state agencies and other public and private agencies for methods of improving coordination of existing data, develop data needed for long-term care research, and promote new research activities. Research and data activities must be designed to:

- (1) improve the validity and reliability of existing data and research information;
- (2) identify sources of funding and potential uses of funding sources;
- (3) evaluate the effectiveness and client outcomes of existing programs; and
- (4) identify and plan for future changes in the number, level, and type of services needed by seniors.

**History:** 1983 c 199 s 5; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1984 c 641 s 12; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1987 c 186 s 15; 1987 c 209 s 30; 1991 c 292 art 7 s 1; 1992 c 513 art 7 s 8

#### 144A.33 RESIDENT AND FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL EDUCATION.

**Subdivision 1. Educational program.** Each resident and family council authorized under section 144.651, subdivision 27, shall be educated and informed about the following:

- (1) care in the nursing home or board and care home;
- (2) resident rights and responsibilities;
- (3) resident and family council organization and maintenance;
- (4) laws and rules that apply to homes and residents;
- (5) human relations; and
- (6) resident and family self-help methods to increase quality of care and quality of life in a nursing home or board and care home.

**Subd. 2. Providing educational services.** The Minnesota board on aging shall provide a grant-in-aid to a statewide, independent, nonprofit, consumer-sponsored agency to provide educational services to councils.

**Subd. 3. Funding of advisory council education.** A license application or renewal fee for nursing homes and boarding care homes under section 144.53 or 144A.07 must be increased by \$2.75 per bed to fund the development and education of resident and family advisory councils.

**Subd. 4. Special account.** All money collected by the commissioner of health under subdivision 3 must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to a special account called the nursing home advisory council fund. Money credited to the fund is appropriated to the Minnesota board on aging for the purposes of this section.

**Subd. 5. Report; evaluation.** The Minnesota board on aging shall evaluate the programs and funding sources established under this section and report to the legislature by February 1 of each year concerning the programs established and the effectiveness of the programs.

**History:** 1985 c 267 s 1; 1987 c 403 art 2 s 13,14



## HOME CARE HOSPICE PROGRAM

**144A.43 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** The definitions in this section apply to sections 144.699, subdivision 2, and 144A.43 to 144A.48.

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

Subd. 3. **Home care service.** "Home care service" means any of the following services when delivered in a place of residence to a person whose illness, disability, or physical condition creates a need for the service:

- (1) nursing services, including the services of a home health aide;
- (2) personal care services not included under sections 148.171 to 148.285;
- (3) physical therapy;
- (4) speech therapy;
- (5) respiratory therapy;
- (6) occupational therapy;
- (7) nutritional services;
- (8) home management services when provided to a person who is unable to perform these activities due to illness, disability, or physical condition. Home management services include at least two of the following services: housekeeping, meal preparation, and shopping;
- (9) medical social services;
- (10) the provision of medical supplies and equipment when accompanied by the provision of a home care service;
- (11) the provision of a hospice program as specified in section 144A.48; and
- (12) other similar medical services and health-related support services identified by the commissioner in rule.

Subd. 4. **Home care provider.** "Home care provider" means an individual, organization, association, corporation, unit of government, or other entity that is regularly engaged in the delivery, directly or by contractual arrangement, of home care services for a fee. At least one home care service must be provided directly, although additional home care services may be provided by contractual arrangements. "Home care provider" includes a hospice program defined in section 144A.48. "Home care provider" does not include:

- (1) any home care or nursing services conducted by and for the adherents of any recognized church or religious denomination for the purpose of providing care and services for those who depend upon spiritual means, through prayer alone, for healing;
- (2) an individual who only provides services to a relative;
- (3) an individual not connected with a home care provider who provides assistance with home management services or personal care needs if the assistance is provided primarily as a contribution and not as a business;
- (4) an individual not connected with a home care provider who shares housing with and provides primarily housekeeping or homemaking services to an elderly or disabled person in return for free or reduced-cost housing;
- (5) an individual or agency providing home-delivered meal services;
- (6) an agency providing senior companion services and other older American volunteer programs established under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, Public Law Number 98-288;
- (7) an employee of a nursing home licensed under this chapter who provides emergency services to individuals residing in an apartment unit attached to the nursing home;
- (8) a member of a professional corporation organized under sections 319A.01 to 319A.22 that does not regularly offer or provide home care services as defined in subdivision 3;

(9) the following organizations established to provide medical or surgical services that do not regularly offer or provide home care services as defined in subdivision 3: a business trust organized under sections 318.01 to 318.04, a nonprofit corporation organized under chapter 317A, a partnership organized under chapter 323, or any other entity determined by the commissioner;

(10) an individual or agency that provides medical supplies or durable medical equipment, except when the provision of supplies or equipment is accompanied by a home care service;

(11) an individual licensed under chapter 147; or

(12) an individual who provides home care services to a person with a developmental disability who lives in a place of residence with a family, foster family, or primary caregiver.

**History:** 1987 c 378 s 3; 1989 c 194 s 1; 1989 c 304 s 137; 1992 c 513 art 6 s 5,6

#### **144A.44 HOME CARE BILL OF RIGHTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Statement of rights.** A person who receives home care services has these rights:

(1) the right to receive written information about rights in advance of receiving care or during the initial evaluation visit before the initiation of treatment, including what to do if rights are violated;

(2) the right to receive care and services according to a suitable and up-to-date plan, and subject to accepted medical or nursing standards, to take an active part in creating and changing the plan and evaluating care and services;

(3) the right to be told in advance of receiving care about the services that will be provided, the disciplines that will furnish care, the frequency of visits proposed to be furnished, other choices that are available, and the consequences of these choices including the consequences of refusing these services;

(4) the right to be told in advance of any change in the plan of care and to take an active part in any change;

(5) the right to refuse services or treatment;

(6) the right to know, in advance, any limits to the services available from a provider, and the provider's grounds for a termination of services;

(7) the right to know in advance of receiving care whether the services are covered by health insurance, medical assistance, or other health programs, the charges for services that will not be covered by Medicare, and the charges that the individual may have to pay;

(8) the right to know what the charges are for services, no matter who will be paying the bill;

(9) the right to know that there may be other services available in the community, including other home care services and providers, and to know where to go for information about these services;

(10) the right to choose freely among available providers and to change providers after services have begun, within the limits of health insurance, medical assistance, or other health programs;

(11) the right to have personal, financial, and medical information kept private, and to be advised of the provider's policies and procedures regarding disclosure of such information;

(12) the right to be allowed access to records and written information from records in accordance with section 144.335;

(13) the right to be served by people who are properly trained and competent to perform their duties;

(14) the right to be treated with courtesy and respect, and to have the patient's property treated with respect;

- (15) the right to be free from physical and verbal abuse;
- (16) the right to reasonable, advance notice of changes in services or charges;
- (17) the right to a coordinated transfer when there will be a change in the provider of services;
- (18) the right to voice grievances regarding treatment or care that is, or fails to be, furnished, or regarding the lack of courtesy or respect to the patient or the patient's property;
- (19) the right to know how to contact an individual associated with the provider who is responsible for handling problems and to have the provider investigate and attempt to resolve the grievance or complaint;
- (20) the right to know the name and address of the state or county agency to contact for additional information or assistance; and
- (21) the right to assert these rights personally, or have them asserted by the patient's family or guardian when the patient has been judged incompetent, without retaliation.

Subd. 2. **Interpretation and enforcement of rights.** These rights are established for the benefit of persons who receive home care services. "Home care services" means home care services as defined in section 144A.43, subdivision 3. A home care provider may not require a person to surrender these rights as a condition of receiving services. A guardian or conservator or, when there is no guardian or conservator, a designated person, may seek to enforce these rights. This statement of rights does not replace or diminish other rights and liberties that may exist relative to persons receiving home care services, persons providing home care services, or providers licensed under Laws 1987, chapter 378. A copy of these rights must be provided to an individual at the time home care services are initiated. The copy shall also contain the address and phone number of the office of health facility complaints and a brief statement describing how to file a complaint with that office.

**History:** 1987 c 378 s 4; 1991 c 133 s 1

#### 144A.45 REGULATION OF HOME CARE SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. **Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt rules for the regulation of home care providers pursuant to sections 144A.43 to 144A.49. The rules shall include the following:

- (a) provisions to assure, to the extent possible, the health, safety and well-being, and appropriate treatment of persons who receive home care services;
- (b) requirements that home care providers furnish the commissioner with specified information necessary to implement sections 144A.43 to 144A.49;
- (c) standards of training of home care provider personnel, which may vary according to the nature of the services provided or the health status of the consumer;
- (d) standards of supervision by a registered nurse or other appropriate health care professionals of personnel providing home care services, which may vary according to the nature of the services provided or the health status of the consumer;
- (e) requirements for the involvement of a consumer's physician, the documentation of physicians' orders, if required, and the consumer's treatment plan, and the maintenance of accurate, current clinical records;
- (f) the establishment of different classes of licenses for different types of providers and different standards and requirements for different kinds of home care services; and
- (g) operating procedures required to implement the home care bill of rights.

Subd. 2. **Regulatory functions.** (a) The commissioner shall:

- (1) evaluate, monitor, and license home care providers in accordance with sections 144A.45 to 144A.49;
- (2) inspect the office and records of a provider during regular business hours without advance notice to the home care provider;

(3) with the consent of the consumer, visit the home where services are being provided;

(4) issue correction orders and assess civil penalties in accordance with section 144.653, subdivisions 5 to 8, for violations of sections 144A.43 to 144A.48 or the rules adopted under those sections; and

(5) take other action reasonably required to accomplish the purposes of sections 144A.43 to 144A.49.

(b) In the exercise of the authority granted in sections 144A.43 to 144A.49, the commissioner shall comply with the applicable requirements of section 144.122, the government data practices act, and the administrative procedure act.

**Subd. 3. Advisory task force.** The commissioner of health shall establish and appoint a home care advisory task force consisting of 15 members representing the various kinds of home care providers, including a hospice program, health care professionals, community health services agencies, and consumers. The appointment, removal, and compensation of members is as provided in section 15.059, subdivision 6. The task force shall provide advice and recommendations to the commissioner regarding the development of rules required by subdivision 1.

**History:** 1987 c 378 s 5; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 25; 1991 c 286 s 8

#### 144A.46 LICENSURE.

**Subdivision 1. License required.** (a) A home care provider may not operate in the state without a current license issued by the commissioner of health.

(b) Within ten days after receiving an application for a license, the commissioner shall acknowledge receipt of the application in writing. The acknowledgment must indicate whether the application appears to be complete or whether additional information is required before the application will be considered complete. Within 90 days after receiving a complete application, the commissioner shall either grant or deny the license. If an applicant is not granted or denied a license within 90 days after submitting a complete application, the license must be deemed granted. An applicant whose license has been deemed granted must provide written notice to the commissioner before providing a home care service.

(c) Each application for a home care provider license, or for a renewal of a license, shall be accompanied by a fee to be set by the commissioner under section 144.122.

**Subd. 2. Exemptions.** The following individuals or organizations are exempt from the requirement to obtain a home care provider license:

(1) a person who is licensed as a registered nurse under sections 148.171 to 148.285 and who independently provides nursing services in the home without any contractual or employment relationship to a home care provider or other organization;

(2) a personal care assistant who provides services under the medical assistance program as authorized under sections 256B.0625, subdivision 19, and 256B.04, subdivision 16;

(3) a person or organization that exclusively offers, provides, or arranges for personal care assistant services under the medical assistance program as authorized under sections 256B.0625, subdivision 19, and 256B.04, subdivision 16;

(4) a person who is registered under sections 148.65 to 148.78 and who independently provides physical therapy services in the home without any contractual or employment relationship to a home care provider or other organization;

(5) a provider that is licensed by the commissioner of human services to provide semi-independent living services under Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.0500 to 9525.0660 when providing home care services to a person with a developmental disability;

(6) a provider that is licensed by the commissioner of human services to provide home- and community-based services under Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.2000 to 9525.2140 when providing home care services to a person with a developmental disability; or

(7) a person or organization that provides only home management services, if the person or organization is registered under section 144A.43, subdivision 3.

An exemption under this subdivision does not excuse the individual from complying with applicable provisions of the home care bill of rights.

**Subd. 3. Enforcement.** The commissioner may refuse to grant or renew a license, or may suspend or revoke a license, for violation of statutes or rules relating to home care services or for conduct detrimental to the welfare of the consumer. Prior to any suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew a license, the home care provider shall be entitled to notice and a hearing as provided by sections 14.57 to 14.69. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the commissioner may, without a prior contested case hearing, temporarily suspend a license or prohibit delivery of services by a provider for not more than 60 days if the commissioner determines that the health or safety of a consumer is in imminent danger, provided (1) advance notice is given to the provider; (2) after notice, the provider fails to correct the problem; (3) the commissioner has reason to believe that other administrative remedies are not likely to be effective; and (4) there is an opportunity for a contested case hearing within the 60 days. The process of suspending or revoking a license must include a plan for transferring affected clients to other providers.

**Subd. 3a. Injunctive relief.** In addition to any other remedy provided by law, the commissioner may bring an action in district court to enjoin a person who is involved in the management, operation, or control of a home care provider, or an employee of the home care provider from illegally engaging in activities regulated by sections 144A.43 to 144A.48. The commissioner may bring an action under this subdivision in the district court in Ramsey county or in the district in which a home care provider is providing services. The court may grant a temporary restraining order in the proceeding if continued activity by the person who is involved in the management, operation, or control of a home care provider, or by an employee of the home care provider, would create an imminent risk of harm to a recipient of home care services.

**Subd. 3b. Subpoena.** In matters pending before the commissioner under sections 144A.43 to 144A.48, the commissioner may issue subpoenas and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of all necessary papers, books, records, documents, and other evidentiary material. If a person fails or refuses to comply with a subpoena or order of the commissioner to appear or testify regarding any matter about which the person may be lawfully questioned or to produce any papers, books, records, documents, or evidentiary materials in the matter to be heard, the commissioner may apply to the district court in any district, and the court shall order the person to comply with the commissioner's order or subpoena. The commissioner of health may administer oaths to witnesses, or take their affirmation. Depositions may be taken in or outside the state in the manner provided by law for the taking of depositions in civil actions. A subpoena or other process or paper may be served upon a named person anywhere within the state by an officer authorized to serve subpoenas in civil actions, with the same fees and mileage and in the same manner as prescribed by law for process issued out of a district court. A person subpoenaed under this subdivision shall receive the same fees, mileage, and other costs that are paid in proceedings in district court.

**Subd. 3c. Time limits for appeals.** To appeal the assessment of civil penalties under section 144A.45, subdivision 2, clause (4), a denial of a waiver or variance, and an action against a license under subdivision 3, a provider must request a hearing no later than 15 days after the provider receives notice of the action.

**Subd. 4. Relation to other regulatory programs.** In the exercise of the authority granted under sections 144A.43 to 144A.49, the commissioner shall not duplicate or replace standards and requirements imposed under another state regulatory program. The commissioner shall not impose additional training or education requirements upon members of a licensed or registered occupation or profession, except as necessary to address or prevent problems that are unique to the delivery of services in the home or to enforce and protect the rights of consumers listed in section 144A.44. The commissioner of health shall not require a home care provider certified under the Medicare

program to comply with a rule adopted under section 144A.45 if the home care provider is required to comply with any equivalent federal law or regulation relating to the same subject matter. The commissioner of health shall specify in the rules those provisions that are not applicable to certified home care providers. To the extent possible, the commissioner shall coordinate the inspections required under sections 144A.45 to 144A.48 with the health facility licensure inspections required under sections 144.50 to 144.58 or 144A.10 when the health care facility is also licensed under the provisions of Laws 1987, chapter 378.

**Subd. 5. Prior criminal convictions.** (a) All persons who have or will have direct contact with clients, including the home care provider, employees of the provider, and applicants for employment shall be required to disclose all criminal convictions. The commissioner may adopt rules that may require a person who must disclose criminal convictions under this subdivision to provide fingerprints and releases that authorize law enforcement agencies, including the bureau of criminal apprehension and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to release information about the person's criminal convictions to the commissioner and home care providers. The bureau of criminal apprehension, county sheriffs, and local chiefs of police shall, if requested, provide the commissioner with criminal conviction data available from local, state, and national criminal record repositories, including the criminal justice data communications network. No person may be employed by a home care provider in a position that involves contact with recipients of home care services nor may any person be involved in the management, operation, or control of a provider, if the person has been convicted of a crime that relates to the provision of home care services or to the position, duties, or responsibilities undertaken by that person in the operation of the home care provider, unless the person can provide sufficient evidence of rehabilitation. The commissioner shall adopt rules for determining what types of employment positions, including volunteer positions, involve contact with recipients of home care services, and whether a crime relates to home care services and what constitutes sufficient evidence of rehabilitation. The rules must require consideration of the nature and seriousness of the crime; the relationship of the crime to the purposes of home care licensure and regulation; the relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the person's position; mitigating circumstances or social conditions surrounding the commission of the crime; the length of time elapsed since the crime was committed; the seriousness of the risk to the home care client's person or property; and other factors the commissioner considers appropriate. Data collected under this subdivision shall be classified as private data under section 13.02, subdivision 12.

(b) Termination of an employee in good faith reliance on information or records obtained under paragraph (a) regarding a confirmed conviction does not subject the home care provider to civil liability or liability for unemployment compensation benefits.

**History:** 1987 c 378 s 6; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 268; 1989 c 209 art 2 s 1; 1989 c 282 art 2 s 26; 1990 c 426 art 2 s 1; 1991 c 286 s 9,10; 1991 c 292 art 2 s 10; art 7 s 2; 1992 c 513 art 6 s 7-9

#### **144A.461 REGISTRATION.**

A person or organization that provides only home management services defined as home care services under section 144A.43, subdivision 3, clause (8), may not operate in the state without a current certificate of registration issued by the commissioner of health. To obtain a certificate of registration, the person or organization must annually submit to the commissioner the name, address, and telephone number of the person or organization and a signed statement declaring that the person or organization is aware that the home care bill of rights applies to their clients and that the person or organization will comply with the bill of rights provisions contained in section 144A.44. A person who provides home management services under this section must, within 120 days after beginning to provide services, attend an orientation session

approved by the commissioner that provides training on the bill of rights and an orientation on the aging process and the needs and concerns of elderly and disabled persons. An organization applying for a certificate must also provide the name, business address, and telephone number of each of the individuals responsible for the management or direction of the organization. The commissioner shall charge an annual registration fee of \$20 for individuals and \$50 for organizations. A home care provider that provides home management services and other home care services must be licensed, but licensure requirements other than the home care bill of rights do not apply to those employees or volunteers who provide only home management services to clients who do not receive any other home care services from the provider. A licensed home care provider need not be registered as a home management service provider, but must provide an orientation on the home care bill of rights to its employees or volunteers who provide home management services. The commissioner may suspend or revoke a provider's certificate of registration or assess fines for violation of the home care bill of rights. Any fine assessed for a violation of the bill of rights by a provider registered under this section shall be in the amount established in the licensure rules for home care providers. As a condition of registration, a provider must cooperate fully with any investigation conducted by the commissioner, including providing specific information requested by the commissioner on clients served and the employees and volunteers who provide services. The commissioner may use any of the powers granted in sections 144A.43 to 144A.49 to administer the registration system and enforce the home care bill of rights under this section.

*History: 1992 c 513 art 6 s 10*

#### **144A.465 LICENSURE; PENALTY.**

A person involved in the management, operation, or control of a home care provider who violates section 144A.46, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), is guilty of a misdemeanor. This section does not apply to a person who had no legal authority to affect or change decisions related to the management, operation, or control of a home care provider.

*History: 1989 c 282 art 2 s 27*

#### **144A.47 INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES.**

The commissioner shall ensure that information and referral services relating to home care are available in all regions of the state. The commissioner shall collect and make available information about available home care services, sources of payment, providers, and the rights of consumers. The commissioner may require home care providers to provide information requested for the purposes of this section, including price information, as a condition of registration or licensure. Specific price information furnished by providers under this section is not public data and must not be released without the written permission of the agency. The commissioner may publish and make available:

- (1) general information and a summary of the range of prices of home care services in the state;
- (2) limitations on hours, availability of services, and eligibility for third-party payments, applicable to individual providers; and
- (3) other information the commissioner determines to be appropriate.

*History: 1987 c 378 s 7*

#### **144A.48 HOSPICE PROGRAMS.**

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

- (1) "Core services" means physician services, registered nursing services, medical social services, pastoral care or other counseling services, and volunteer services that are provided either directly by the hospice program or through a service contract or other arrangement;

(2) "Hospice patient" means an individual who has been diagnosed as terminally ill with a probable life expectancy of under one year, as documented by the individual's attending physician, and who alone or, when unable, through the hospice patient's family has voluntarily consented to and received admission to a hospice program;

(3) "Hospice patient's family" means relatives of the hospice patient, the hospice patient's guardian, primary caregivers, or persons identified by the hospice patient as having significant personal ties;

(4) "Hospice program" means palliative and supportive care and other services provided by an interdisciplinary team under the direction of an identifiable hospice administration to terminally ill hospice patients and their families to meet the physical, nutritional, emotional, social, spiritual, and special needs experienced during the final stages of illness, dying, and bereavement, through a centrally coordinated program that ensures continuity and consistency of home and inpatient care provided directly or through an agreement;

(5) "Interdisciplinary team" means a group of qualified individuals with expertise in meeting the special needs of hospice patients and their families, including, at a minimum, those individuals who are providers of core services;

(6) "Palliative care" means care directed at managing the symptoms experienced by the hospice patient and intended to enhance the quality of life for the hospice patient and the patient's family, but not directed at curing the illness;

(7) "Residential hospice facility" means a facility that houses no more than eight hospice patients, located in a residential area in a facility that resembles a single-family home, that directly provides 24-hour residential and support services in a home-like setting for hospice patients as an integral part of the continuum of home care provided by a hospice licensed under subdivision 2; and

(8) "Volunteer services" means services by volunteers who provide a personal presence that augments a variety of professional and nonprofessional services available to the hospice patient, the patient's family, and the hospice program.

**Subd. 2. License requirements.** A hospice program may not operate in the state or use the words "hospice" or "hospice program" without a current license issued by the commissioner of health. The commissioner shall license hospice programs using the powers and authorities contained in sections 144A.43 to 144A.47 and 144A.49. In addition a hospice program must provide:

(1) centrally coordinated hospice core services in the home and inpatient settings;

(2) that the medical components of the hospice program are under the direction of a licensed physician who serves as medical director;

(3) that the palliative medical care provided to a hospice patient is under the direction of the attending physician;

(4) an interdisciplinary team that meets regularly to develop, implement, and evaluate the hospice program's plan of care for each hospice patient and the patient's family;

(5) accessible hospice care, 24 hours a day, seven days a week;

(6) an ongoing system of quality assurance;

(7) that volunteer services are provided by individuals who have completed a hospice training program and are qualified to provide the services;

(8) a planned program of supportive services available to patients' families during the bereavement period; and

(9) that inpatient services are provided directly or by arrangement in a licensed hospital or nursing home.

**Subd. 3. Required inspections.** The commissioner shall inspect the hospice program, the home care and the inpatient care provided by the hospice program to determine if the requirements of sections 144A.45 to 144A.48 are met.

**Subd. 4. Rule authority.** The commissioner shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section.



Subd. 5. **License designation.** A license issued to a home care provider meeting the requirements contained in this section shall indicate that the provider is qualified to offer hospice care.

Subd. 6. **Residential hospice.** A hospice program may operate a residential hospice facility for hospice patients if it is:

- (1) licensed as a hospice program under this section;
- (2) licensed as a class B supervised living facility under section 144.50, subdivision 6, provided that:
  - (i) the residential hospice facility is not required to obtain a program license from the department of human services under Minnesota Rules, part 4665.0700; and
  - (ii) for purposes of the state building code and state uniform fire code, the facility meets group R, division 3, occupancy requirements for six or less persons and group R, division 1, occupancy requirements for seven to eight persons; and
- (3) in compliance with the fire protection provisions of chapter 21 of the 1988 Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, for facilities housing persons with impractical evacuation capabilities, as a minimum.

**History:** 1987 c 378 s 8; 1992 c 595 s 23,24

#### 144A.49 TEMPORARY PROCEDURES.

For purposes of this section, "home care providers" shall mean the providers described in section 144A.43, subdivision 4, including hospice programs described in section 144A.48. Home care providers are exempt from the licensure requirement in section 144A.46, subdivision 1, until 90 days after the effective date of the licensure rules. Beginning July 1, 1987, no home care provider, as defined in section 144A.43, subdivision 4, except a provider exempt from licensure under section 144A.46, subdivision 2, may provide home care services in this state without registering with the commissioner. A home care provider is registered with the commissioner when the commissioner has received in writing the provider's name; the name of its parent corporation or sponsoring organization, if any; the street address and telephone number of its principal place of business; the street address and telephone number of its principal place of business in Minnesota; the counties in Minnesota in which it may render services; the street address and telephone number of all other offices in Minnesota; and the name, educational background, and ten-year employment history of the person responsible for the management of the agency. A registration fee must be submitted with the application for registration. The fee must be established pursuant to section 144.122 and must be based on a consideration of the following factors: the number of clients served by the home care provider, the number of employees, the number of services offered, and annual revenues of the provider. The registration is effective until 90 days after licensure rules are effective. In order to maintain its registration and provide services in Minnesota, a home care provider must comply with section 144A.44 and comply with requests for information under section 144A.47. A registered home care provider is subject to sections 144A.51 to 144A.54. Registration under this section does not exempt a home care provider from the licensure and other requirements later adopted by the commissioner.

Within 90 days after the effective date of the licensure rules under section 144A.45, the commissioner of health shall issue provisional licenses to all home care providers registered with the department as of that date. The provisional license shall be valid until superseded by a license issued under section 144A.46 or for a period of one year, whichever is shorter. Applications for licensure as a home care provider received on or after the effective date of the home care licensure rules, shall be issued under section 144A.46, subdivision 1.

**History:** 1987 c 378 s 14; 1991 c 292 art 2 s 11; 1992 c 513 art 6 s 11

## HEALTH CARE FACILITY GRIEVANCES

**144A.51 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of sections 144A.51 to 144A.54, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Administrative agency or agency.** "Administrative agency" or "agency" means any division, official, or employee of a state or local governmental agency, but does not include:

- (a) Any member of the senate or house of representatives;
- (b) The governor or personal staff of the governor;
- (c) Any instrumentality of the federal government of the United States; or
- (d) Any court or judge.

Subd. 3. **Director.** "Director" means the director of the office of health facility complaints.

Subd. 4. **Health care provider.** "Health care provider" means any professional licensed by the state to provide medical or health care services who does provide the services to a resident of a health facility or a residential care home.

Subd. 5. **Health facility.** "Health facility" means a facility or that part of a facility which is required to be licensed pursuant to sections 144.50 to 144.58, and a facility or that part of a facility which is required to be licensed under any law of this state which provides for the licensure of nursing homes.

Subd. 6. **Resident.** "Resident" means any resident or patient of a health facility or a residential care home, or a consumer of services provided by a home care provider, or the guardian or conservator of the resident, patient, or consumer, if one has been appointed.

Subd. 7. **Home care provider.** "Home care provider" means a home care provider as defined in section 144A.43, subdivision 4.

**History:** 1976 c 325 s 1; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 378 s 9,10; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1991 c 292 art 2 s 12; 1992 c 513 art 6 s 12-14

**NOTE:** Subdivision 5, as amended by Laws 1991, chapter 292, article 2, section 12, is effective upon the effective date of rules adopted by the commissioner of health for licensure of residential care homes. See Laws 1991, chapter 292, article 2, section 76.

**144A.52 OFFICE OF HEALTH FACILITY COMPLAINTS.**

Subdivision 1. **Creation; administration.** The office of health facility complaints is hereby created in the department of health. The office shall be headed by a director appointed by the state commissioner of health.

The commissioner of health shall provide the office of health facility complaints with office space, administrative services and secretarial and clerical assistance.

Subd. 2. **Staff.** The director may appoint a deputy director and one personal secretary to discharge the responsibilities of the office. Any deputy director or personal secretary and all other employees of the office shall be classified employees of the state commissioner of health.

Subd. 3. **Duties; delegation.** The director may delegate to members of the staff any of the authority or duties of the director except the duty of formally making recommendations to the legislature, administrative agencies, health facilities, residential care homes, health care providers, home care providers, and the state commissioner of health.

Subd. 4. **Training.** The director shall attempt to include staff persons with expertise in areas such as law, health care, social work, dietary needs, sanitation, financial audits, health-safety requirements as they apply to health facilities, residential care homes, and any other relevant fields. To the extent possible, employees of the office shall meet federal training requirements for health facility surveyors.

**History:** 1976 c 325 s 2; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1982 c 560 s 48; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 378 s 11; 1991 c 238 art 1 s 8; 1992 c 513 art 6 s 15,16

**144A.53 DIRECTOR; POWERS AND DUTIES.**

Subdivision 1. **Powers.** The director may:

(a) Promulgate by rule, pursuant to chapter 14, and within the limits set forth in subdivision 2, the methods by which complaints against health facilities, health care providers, home care providers, or residential care homes, or administrative agencies are to be made, reviewed, investigated, and acted upon; provided, however, that a fee may not be charged for filing a complaint.

(b) Recommend legislation and changes in rules to the state commissioner of health, legislature, governor, administrative agencies or the federal government.

(c) Investigate, upon a complaint or upon initiative of the director, any action or failure to act by a health care provider, home care provider, residential care home, or a health facility.

(d) Request and receive access to relevant information, records, incident reports, or documents in the possession of an administrative agency, a health care provider, a home care provider, a residential care home, or a health facility, and issue investigative subpoenas to individuals and facilities for oral information and written information, including privileged information which the director deems necessary for the discharge of responsibilities. For purposes of investigation and securing information to determine violations, the director need not present a release, waiver, or consent of an individual. The identities of patients or residents must be kept private as defined by section 13.02, subdivision 12.

(e) Enter and inspect, at any time, a health facility or residential care home and be permitted to interview staff; provided that the director shall not unduly interfere with or disturb the provision of care and services within the facility or home or the activities of a patient or resident unless the patient or resident consents.

(f) Issue correction orders and assess civil fines pursuant to section 144.653 or any other law which provides for the issuance of correction orders to health facilities or home care provider, or under section 144A.45. A facility's or home's refusal to cooperate in providing lawfully requested information may also be grounds for a correction order.

(g) Recommend the certification or decertification of health facilities pursuant to Title XVIII or XIX of the United States Social Security Act.

(h) Assist patients or residents of health facilities or residential care homes in the enforcement of their rights under Minnesota law.

(i) Work with administrative agencies, health facilities, home care providers, residential care homes, and health care providers and organizations representing consumers on programs designed to provide information about health facilities to the public and to health facility residents.

**Subd. 2. Complaints.** The director may receive a complaint from any source concerning an action of an administrative agency, a health care provider, a home care provider, a residential care home, or a health facility. The director may require a complainant to pursue other remedies or channels of complaint open to the complainant before accepting or investigating the complaint.

The director shall keep written records of all complaints and any action upon them. After completing an investigation of a complaint, the director shall inform the complainant, the administrative agency having jurisdiction over the subject matter, the health care provider, the home care provider, the residential care home, and the health facility of the action taken.

**Subd. 3. Recommendations.** If, after duly considering a complaint and whatever material the director deems pertinent, the director determines that the complaint is valid, the director may recommend that an administrative agency, a health care provider, a home care provider, a residential care home, or a health facility should:

(a) Modify or cancel the actions which gave rise to the complaint;

(b) Alter the practice, rule or decision which gave rise to the complaint;

- (c) Provide more information about the action under investigation; or
- (d) Take any other step which the director considers appropriate.

If the director requests, the administrative agency, a health care provider, a home care provider, residential care home, or health facility shall, within the time specified, inform the director about the action taken on a recommendation.

**Subd. 4. Referral of complaints.** If a complaint received by the director relates to a matter more properly within the jurisdiction of an occupational licensing board or other governmental agency, the director shall forward the complaint to that agency and shall inform the complaining party of the forwarding. The agency shall promptly act in respect to the complaint, and shall inform the complaining party and the director of its disposition. If a governmental agency receives a complaint which is more properly within the jurisdiction of the director, it shall promptly forward the complaint to the director, and shall inform the complaining party of the forwarding. If the director has reason to believe that an official or employee of an administrative agency, a home care provider, residential care home, or health facility has acted in a manner warranting criminal or disciplinary proceedings, the director shall refer the matter to the state commissioner of health, the commissioner of human services, an appropriate prosecuting authority, or other appropriate agency.

**History:** 1976 c 325 s 3; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1983 c 289 s 98; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 209 s 31; 1987 c 378 s 12; 1991 c 286 s 11; 1991 c 292 art 2 s 13; 1992 c 513 art 6 s 17-20

**NOTE:** Subdivision 1, as amended by Laws 1991, chapter 292, article 2, section 13, is effective upon the effective date of rules adopted by the commissioner of health for licensure of residential care homes. See Laws 1991, chapter 292, article 2, section 76.

#### **144A.54 PUBLICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS; REPORTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Director; duties.** Except as otherwise provided by this section, the director may determine the form, frequency, and distribution of the conclusions and recommendations. The director shall transmit the conclusions and recommendations to the state commissioner of health and the legislature. Before announcing a conclusion or recommendation that expressly or by implication criticizes an administrative agency, a health care provider, a home care provider, a residential care home, or a health facility, the director shall consult with that agency, health care provider, home care provider, home, or facility. When publishing an opinion adverse to an administrative agency, a health care provider, a home care provider, a residential care home, or a health facility, the director shall include in the publication any statement of reasonable length made to the director by that agency, health care provider, home care provider, residential care home, or health facility in defense or explanation of the action.

**Subd. 2. Annual report.** In addition to whatever other reports the director may make, the director shall, at the end of each year, report to the state commissioner of health and the legislature concerning the exercise of the director's functions during the preceding year. The state commissioner of health may, at any time, request and receive information, other than resident records, from the director.

**Subd. 3. Confidentiality.** In performing the duties under Laws 1976, chapter 325, the director shall preserve the confidentiality of resident records. The director may release a resident's records with the written approval of the resident who is the subject of the records.

**History:** 1976 c 325 s 4; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 378 s 13; 1992 c 513 art 6 s 21

**144A.55** [Repealed, 1983 c 260 s 68]

## NURSING ASSISTANTS

**144A.61 NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING.**

Subdivision 1. **Authority.** The commissioner of health, in consultation with the commissioner of human services, shall implement the provisions of Public Law Number 100-203, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, that relate to training and competency evaluation programs, testing, and the establishment of a registry for nursing assistants in nursing homes and boarding care homes certified for participation in the medical assistance or Medicare programs. The commissioner of health may adopt permanent rules that may be necessary to implement Public Law Number 100-203 and provisions of this section. The commissioner of health may contract with outside parties for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this section. At the request of the commissioner, the board of nursing may establish training and competency evaluation standards; review, evaluate, and approve curricula; review and approve training programs; and establish a registry of nursing assistants.

Subd. 2. **Nursing assistants.** For the purposes of this section and section 144A.611 "nursing assistant" means a nursing home or certified boarding care home employee, including a nurse's aide or an orderly, who is assigned by the director of nursing to provide or assist in the provision of nursing or nursing-related services under the supervision of a registered nurse. "Nursing assistant" includes nursing assistants employed by nursing pool companies but does not include a licensed health professional. The commissioner of health may, by rule, establish categories of nursing assistants who are not required to comply with the educational requirements of this section and section 144A.611.

Subd. 3. **Curricula.** The chancellor of vocational technical education shall develop curricula to be used for nursing assistant training programs for employees of nursing homes and boarding care homes.

Subd. 3a. **Competency evaluation program.** The commissioner of health shall approve the competency evaluation program. A competency evaluation must be administered to nursing assistants who desire to be listed in the nursing assistant registry and who have done one of the following: (1) completed an approved training program; (2) been listed on the nursing assistant registry maintained by another state; or (3) completed a training program in nursing assistant skills other than the approved course. The tests may only be administered by technical colleges, community colleges, or other organizations approved by the department of health. A competency evaluation for a person, other than an individual enrolled in a licensed nurse education program, who has not completed an approved nursing assistant training program, must include an evaluation of all clinical skills.

Subd. 4. **Technical assistance.** The chancellor of vocational technical education shall, upon request, provide necessary and appropriate technical assistance in the development of nursing assistant training programs.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1977 c 326 s 18]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1989 c 282 art 3 s 98]

Subd. 6a. **Nursing assistants hired in 1990 and after.** Each nursing assistant hired to work in a nursing home or in a certified boarding care home on or after January 1, 1990, must have successfully completed an approved competency evaluation prior to employment or an approved nursing assistant training program and competency evaluation within four months from the date of employment.

Subd. 7. **Violation, penalty.** Violation of this section by a nursing home or certified boarding care home shall be grounds for the issuance of a correction order. Under the provisions of sections 144.653 or 144A.10, the failure of the nursing home or certified boarding care home to comply with the correction order shall result in the assessment of a fine in the amount of \$300.

Subd. 8. **Exceptions.** Employees of nursing homes conducted in accordance with the teachings of the body known as the Church of Christ, Scientist, shall be exempt from the requirements of this section and section 144A.611.

**History:** 1976 c 310 s 1; 1977 c 305 s 45; 1977 c 326 s 6,7; 1977 c 453 s 26; 1981 c 359 s 17; 1987 c 258 s 12; 1989 c 246 s 2; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 28; 1990 c 375 s 3; 1991 c 286 s 12-14; 1992 c 513 art 6 s 22,23

**NOTE:** Subdivision 6 was also amended by Laws 1989, chapter 282, article 3, section 28, to read as follows:

"Subd. 6. **Training program.** Each nursing assistant hired to work in a nursing home on or after January 1, 1979, but before January 1, 1990, must have successfully completed an approved nursing assistant training program or shall be enrolled in the first available approved training program which is scheduled to commence within 60 days of the date of the assistant's employment. Approved training programs shall be offered at the location most reasonably accessible to the enrollees in each class."

#### **144A.611 REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES PAYABLE TO NURSING ASSISTANTS.**

**Subdivision 1. Nursing homes and certified boarding care homes.** The actual costs of tuition and reasonable expenses for the competency evaluation or the nursing assistant training program and competency evaluation approved under section 144A.61, which are paid to nursing assistants pursuant to subdivision 2, are a reimbursable expense for nursing homes and certified boarding care homes under the provisions of chapter 256B and the rules promulgated thereunder.

**Subd. 2. Nursing assistants.** A nursing assistant who has completed an approved competency evaluation or an approved training program and competency evaluation shall be reimbursed by the nursing home or certified boarding care home for actual costs of tuition and reasonable expenses for the competency evaluation or the training program and competency evaluation 90 days after the date of employment, or upon completion of the approved training program, whichever is later.

**Subd. 3. Rules.** The commissioner of human services shall promulgate any rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section. The rules shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Provisions designed to prevent reimbursement by the commissioner under this section and section 144A.61 to a nursing home, certified boarding care home, or nursing assistant for the assistant's simultaneous training in more than one approved program;

(b) Provisions designed to prevent reimbursement by the commissioner under this section and section 144A.61 to more than one nursing home or certified boarding care home for the training of any individual nursing assistant; and

(c) Provisions permitting the reimbursement by the commissioner to nursing homes, certified boarding care homes, and nursing assistants for the retraining of a nursing assistant after an absence from the labor market of not less than 24 months.

**History:** 1976 c 310 s 2; 1977 c 326 s 9; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 58; 1986 c 444; 1989 c 282 art 3 s 29; 1991 c 286 s 15,16

#### **144A.612 APPEALS FROM FINDINGS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR MISAPPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY.**

(a) Until federal regulations are adopted under sections 1819(g)(1)(C) and 1919(g)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act that govern appeals from the state's findings of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of property by nursing assistants employed by or working in a nursing home or boarding care home, the commissioner of health shall provide hearings under sections 14.57 to 14.62 and the rules adopted by the office of administrative hearings governing contested cases.

(b) The commissioner of health shall notify the nursing assistant of findings by sending written notice, by certified mail, to the last known address available from the facility or employer. The notice must contain a statement of the nature of the allegation and the time and date of the occurrence; the individual's right to a hearing; and the commissioner's intent to report the findings to the nurse aide registry, pending the individual's appeal.

(c) To contest the finding, the nursing assistant must request a hearing in writing no later than 30 days after receiving written notice of the finding, unless federal regulations provide otherwise.

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(d) The hearing must be held within 60 days from the date of receipt of the request for a hearing. The individual must be served written notice by certified mail of the time, place, and date of the hearing at least 15 days in advance. The hearing must be held in a place and time that is convenient for the individual to attend.

(e) The hearing must provide an opportunity for the individual to present evidence, either in person, in writing, or through witnesses, and to refute the allegations. The individual is entitled to have an attorney or other representative present at the hearing. The commissioner must issue a decision within 30 days after the hearing record is complete and the parties have had an opportunity to file exceptions under section 14.61. A copy of the decision shall be mailed to the individual.

(f) If a hearing is requested and held, and if the department's findings of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of property are upheld by a preponderance of the evidence, the commissioner's decision and findings will be sent to the registry established under section 144A.61, subdivision 1. If a hearing is not requested or if the notice to the nursing assistant is returned to the department, the commissioner has no jurisdiction to hear an appeal at a later date, and the department's findings shall be sent to the registry at the end of the 30-day period with a notation that a hearing was not requested or held. The registry must include any brief statement by the individual disputing the findings.

(g) If it is determined that the individual did not neglect, abuse, or misappropriate resident property, all records and investigative reports shall be classified as private data under section 13.39.

(h) The identity of the nursing assistant and the findings of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of property are public when sent to the registry, notwithstanding the provisions of section 626.557, subdivision 12. The identity of the reporter, the vulnerable adult, and persons interviewed are governed by section 626.557, subdivision 12.

**History:** 1991 c 286 s 17

- 144A.65 MS 1980 [Expired]
- 144A.66 MS 1980 [Expired]
- 144A.67 MS 1980 [Expired]