



*Resolution
of the
Board of County Commissioners
St. Louis County, Minnesota*

Adopted on: February 28, 2006

Resolution No. 143

Offered by Commissioner: Fink

WHEREAS, on behalf of the taxpayers of St. Louis County, the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners continually seeks ways to keep the cost of county government as cost effective as possible; and

WHEREAS, the cost of St. Louis County government is significantly affected by mandates from the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature in 2005 passed legislation (M.S. 6.79) which allows local governments to file resolutions with the State Auditor which either object to particular state mandates or make recommendations for reforming particular state mandates; and

WHEREAS, the State Auditor has encouraged local governments to submit mandate reform proposals to her office and has expressed a willingness to partner with local governments in achieving those reforms;

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has been involved in the systematic shifting of costs to County property taxpayers for obligations which are rightly the responsibility of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners hereby submits to the State Auditor a certified copy of this resolution and the list of mandates, along with statute citations and comments, as candidates for repeal;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners requests that the State Auditor take any measures available to aid the repeal of these mandates.

Commissioner Fink moved the adoption of the Resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:

Yeas - Commissioners Fink, O'Neil, Kron, Forsman, Raukar, and Chair Nelson - 6

Nays - None

Out of Room - Commissioner Sweeney - 1

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of County Auditor, ss.
County of St. Louis

I, **DONALD DICKLICH**, Auditor of the County of St. Louis, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in my office on the 28th day of February, A.D. 2006, and that this is a true and correct copy.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Duluth, Minnesota, this 28th day of February, A.D., 2006

DONALD DICKLICH, COUNTY AUDITOR

By

Deputy Auditor/Clerk of County Board

Underfunded Mandates

Children's Out of Home Placement – MS 393.07

Minnesota funds a smaller percentage of out of home placement than almost any other state. Since the state establishes all of the rules and responsibilities that counties must follow on children's out of home placement, there should be more equitable cost sharing.

393.07 Powers and duties.

Subdivision 1. Public child welfare program.

(a) To assist in carrying out the child protection, delinquency prevention and family assistance responsibilities of the state, the local social services agency shall administer a program of social services and financial assistance to be known as the public child welfare program. The public child welfare program shall be supervised by the commissioner of human services and administered by the local social services agency in accordance with law and with rules of the commissioner.

(b) The purpose of the public child welfare program is to assure protection for and financial assistance to children who are confronted with social, physical, or emotional problems requiring protection and assistance. These problems include, but are not limited to the following:

(1) mental, emotional, or physical handicap;

(2) birth of a child to a mother who was not married to the child's father when the child was conceived nor when the child was born, including but not limited to costs of prenatal care, confinement and other care necessary for the protection of a child born to a mother who was not married to the child's father at the time of the child's conception nor at the birth;

(3) dependency, neglect;

(4) delinquency;

(5) abuse or rejection of a child by its parents;

(6) absence of a parent or guardian able and willing to provide needed care and supervision;

(7) need of parents for assistance with child rearing problems, or in placing the child in foster care.

(c) A local social services agency shall make the services of its public child welfare program available as required by law, by the commissioner, or by the courts and shall cooperate with other agencies, public or private, dealing with the problems of children and their parents as provided in this subdivision.

(d) A local social services agency may rent, lease, or purchase property, or in any other way approved by the commissioner, contract with individuals or agencies to provide needed facilities for foster care of children. It may purchase services or child care from duly authorized individuals, agencies or institutions when in its judgment the needs of a child or the child's family can best be met in this way.

Subd. 1a. Repealed, 1979 c 256 s 3

Subd. 2. **Administration of public welfare.** The local social services agency, subject to the supervision of the commissioner of human services, shall administer all forms of public welfare, both for children and adults, responsibility for which now or hereafter may be imposed on the commissioner of human services by law, including general assistance, aid to dependent children, county supplementation, if any, or state aid to recipients of supplemental security income for aged, blind and disabled, child welfare services, mental health services, and other public assistance or public welfare services, provided that the local social services agency shall not employ public health nursing or home health service personnel other than homemaker-home help aides, but shall contract for or purchase the necessary services from existing community agencies. The duties of the local social services agency shall be performed in accordance with the standards and rules which may be promulgated by the commissioner of human services to achieve the purposes intended by law and in order to comply with the requirements of the federal Social Security Act in respect to public assistance and child welfare services, so that the state may qualify for grants-in-aid available under that act. To avoid administrative penalties under section [256.017](#), the local social services agency must comply with (1) policies established by state law and (2) instructions from the commissioner relating (i) to public assistance program policies consistent with federal law and regulation and state law and rule and (ii) to local agency program operations. The commissioner may enforce local social services agency compliance with the instructions, and may delay, withhold, or deny payment of all or part of the state and federal share of benefits and federal administrative reimbursement, according to the provisions under section [256.017](#). The local social services agency shall supervise wards of the commissioner and, when so designated, act as agent of the commissioner of human services in the placement of the commissioner's wards in adoptive homes or in other foster care facilities. The local social services agency shall cooperate as needed when the commissioner contracts with a licensed child placement agency for adoption services for a child under the commissioner's guardianship. The local social services agency may contract with a bank or other financial institution to provide services associated with the processing of public assistance checks and pay a service fee for these services, provided the fee charged does not exceed the fee charged to other customers of the institution for similar services.

Subd. 3. **Federal Social Security.** The local social services agency shall be charged with the duties of administration of all forms of public assistance and public child welfare or other programs within the purview of the federal Social Security Act, other than public health nursing and home health services, and which now are, or hereafter may be, imposed on the commissioner of human services by law, of both children and adults. The duties of such local social services agency shall be performed in accordance with the standards and rules which may be promulgated by the commissioner of human services in order to achieve the purposes of the law and to comply with the requirements of the federal Social Security Act needed to qualify the state to obtain grants-in-aid available under that act. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, the welfare board shall delegate to the director the authority to determine eligibility and disburse funds without first securing board action, provided that the director shall present to the board, at the next scheduled meeting, any such action taken for ratification by the board.