

LEGISLATIVE BILL 759

Approved by the Governor May 5, 1999

Introduced by Landis, 46

AN ACT relating to legal aid services; to amend sections 25-3002 and 25-3004, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998; to change provisions relating to the distribution of grants; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 25-3002, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998, is amended to read:

25-3002. The Legal Aid and Services Fund is created. Money in the fund shall be used to provide civil legal services to eligible low-income persons. ~~The State Treasurer~~ Commission on Public Advocacy shall distribute all money in the fund ~~monthly~~ periodically in the form of grants to service providers of civil legal services to eligible low-income persons as determined by the ~~Commission on Public Advocacy~~ commission pursuant to section 25-3004. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act. Any money left in the Legal Aid and Services Fund on December 31 of any year shall be distributed in the following year.

Sec. 2. Section 25-3004, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998, is amended to read:

25-3004. (1) Each service provider certified by the Commission on Public Advocacy shall be eligible to receive funds from the Legal Aid and Services Fund to provide free civil legal services to eligible low-income persons in the service area for which it is certified. The funds granted to each service provider from the Legal Aid and Services Fund shall be determined by the commission. ~~The commission shall provide the State Treasurer the amount of the available funds to be distributed to each service provider. Such funds shall be distributed on a monthly basis.~~

(2) Each service provider is authorized to use funds received from the Legal Aid and Services Fund to provide legal services in civil matters to any eligible low-income person.

(3) A service provider which has received funds from the Legal Aid and Services Fund shall be audited annually.

Sec. 3. Original sections 25-3002 and 25-3004, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998, are repealed.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.