

Introduced: 3/6/80
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 936

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to displaced homemakers; and providing
7 for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds
10 that there is an increasing number of persons in the state who, after having
11 fulfilled the role of homemaker for a number of years of their life, find
12 themselves "displaced" through the death of a spouse, divorce, separation,
13 desertion, or loss of family income. The legislature finds that displaced
14 homemakers are often without any source of income, face continuing discrimina-
15 tion in employment because they frequently have no recent work experience and
16 may be older than other applicants for employment, are subject to high rates
17 of unemployment and are ineligible for unemployment insurance because they
18 have been engaged in unpaid labor in the home, may be ineligible for cate-
19 gorical welfare assistance, are ineligible for social security if they have
20 been divorced from the family wage earner, may have lost their rights as
21 beneficiaries under employers' pension and health plans through death of a
22 spouse or divorce despite the contribution of years to the well-being of the
23 family, and may be ineligible for Medicaid and unable to purchase private
24 health insurance because of age and lack of income. The legislature further
25 finds that homemakers are an unrecognized part of the work force of the state
26 who have made an invaluable contribution to the welfare of society.

27 (b) It is the intent of this Act to

28 (1) provide the necessary counseling, training, employment place-
29 ment, and other services for displaced homemakers;

1 (2) improve the health and welfare of this growing group of mem-
2 bers of the community; and

3 (3) provide displaced homemakers with independence and economic
4 security vital to a productive life.

5 * Sec. 2. AS 47 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

6 CHAPTER 90. DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS.

7 Sec. 47.90.010. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. (a) The commissioner, in
8 consultation with state and local governmental agencies, community
9 groups, and groups concerned with displaced homemakers, may contract
10 with public or private nonprofit organizations for multipurpose service
11 centers for displaced homemakers.

12 (b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations prescribing the
13 standards to be met by each multipurpose service center for displaced
14 homemakers in accordance with the policies established in this chapter.

15 Sec. 47.90.020. MULTIPURPOSE SERVICE CENTERS. A multipurpose
16 service center for displaced homemakers established under AS 47.90.010
17 may provide the following services:

18 (1) job counseling services which shall

19 (A) be specifically designed for displaced homemakers;

20 (B) counsel displaced homemakers regarding job oppor-
21 tunities; and

22 (C) consider and build on the skills and experience of a
23 homemaker and emphasize job readiness as well as skill development;

24 (2) job training and job placement services which shall

25 (A) emphasize short-term training programs which expand
26 upon homemaking skills and volunteer experience and which lead to
27 gainful employment;

28 (B) develop through cooperation with state and local
29 government agencies and private employers training and placement

1 programs for jobs in the public and private sector;

2 (C) assist displaced homemakers in gaining admission to
3 existing public and private job-training programs and opportunities
4 including vocational education and apprenticeship training pro-
5 grams; and

6 (D) assist in identifying community needs and creating
7 new jobs for displaced homemakers in the public and private sector;

8 (3) health counseling services including referral to existing
9 health programs with respect to

10 (A) general principles of preventive health care;

11 (B) health care consumer education, particularly in the
12 selection of physicians and health care services including health
13 maintenance organizations and health insurance;

14 (C) family health care and nutrition;

15 (D) alcohol and drug abuse; and

16 (E) other related health care matters;

17 (4) financial management services which provide information
18 and assistance relating to insurance, taxes, estate and probate matters,
19 mortgages, loans, and related financial matters;

20 (5) educational services including

21 (A) information relating to courses offering credit
22 through secondary or postsecondary education programs and reentry
23 programs, including bilingual programs if appropriate; and

24 (B) information about other programs determined by the
25 commissioner to be of benefit to displaced homemakers;

26 (6) legal counseling and referral services; and

27 (7) information services with respect to federal and state
28 employment, education, health, public assistance, and unemployment
29 assistance programs which the commissioner determines to be of benefit

1 to displaced homemakers.

2 Sec. 47.90.030. EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS. The staff
3 positions of multipurpose centers established under AS 47.90.010, in-
4 cluding supervisory, technical and administrative positions, shall to
5 the maximum extent possible be filled by displaced homemakers.

6 Sec. 47.90.040. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION. The commissioner
7 shall consult and cooperate with the Department of Health and Social
8 Services; the Department of Education, including the division of voca-
9 tional rehabilitation; the University of Alaska, community colleges and
10 other colleges as appropriate; the Department of Labor, including the
11 division of employment security; and other persons or agencies which the
12 commissioner considers appropriate in the implementation of this chap-
13 ter.

14 Sec. 47.90.050. CERTIFICATION OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS. The com-
15 missioner shall adopt regulations under which the commissioner may
16 certify individuals as displaced homemakers for the purposes of AS 47.-
17 90.060 and AS 43.20.037.

18 Sec. 47.90.060. ASSISTANCE TO AGENCIES. The commissioner may
19 grant to a state agency not to exceed 30 percent of the first 12 months
20 of the compensation paid to a displaced homemaker whom the agency em-
21 ploys and trains if the agency assists the displaced homemaker in ob-
22 taining permanent employment.

23 Sec. 47.90.070. REGULATIONS. The commissioner may adopt regula-
24 tions to implement this chapter.

25 Sec. 47.90.080. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

26 (1) "agency" means a department or agency of the state or a
27 municipality of the state;

28 (2) "commissioner" means the commissioner of community and
29 regional affairs;

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(3) "displaced homemaker" means a person who

(A) has worked without compensation as a homemaker for at least six years;

(B) has been dependent on the income of a family member and has lost that income; and

(C) has encountered difficulty in finding employment.

* Sec. 3. AS 43.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 43.20.037. DISPLACED HOMEMAKER CREDITS. For purposes of calculating the income tax payable under this chapter, the taxpayer may apply as a credit against his tax liability 30 percent of the first 12 months of compensation paid each person certified by the commissioner of community and regional affairs to be a displaced homemaker and employed and trained by the taxpayer under regulations of the commissioner of community and regional affairs.

* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1981.