

Original sponsor: Health, Education and
Social Services Committee

Offered: 4/10/80
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR 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 dis-
15 crimination in employment because they frequently have no recent work ex-
16 perience and may be older than other applicants for employment, are subject
17 to high rates of unemployment and are ineligible for unemployment insurance
18 because they have been engaged in unpaid labor in the home, may be ineligible
19 for categorical welfare assistance, are ineligible for social security if
20 they have been divorced from the family wage earner, may have lost their
21 rights as beneficiaries under employers' pension and health plans through
22 death of a spouse or divorce despite the contribution of years to the well-
23 being of the family, and may be ineligible for Medicaid and unable to pur-
24 chase private health insurance because of age and lack of income. The
25 legislature further finds that homemakers are an unrecognized part of the
26 work force of the state who have made an invaluable contribution to the
27 welfare of society.

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

29 (1) provide the necessary counseling, aptitude testing, training,

1 employment placement opportunities, and other services for displaced home-
2 makers through contracts with public or private nonprofit organizations and
3 by using and expanding existing state programs;

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

6 (3) assist displaced homemakers in achieving independence and
7 economic security vital to a productive life.

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

9 CHAPTER 90. DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS.

10 Sec. 47.90.010. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. (a) The commissioner, in
11 consultation with state and local governmental agencies, community
12 groups, and groups concerned with displaced homemakers, may

13 (1) contract with public or private nonprofit organizations
14 for multipurpose service centers for displaced homemakers; and

15 (2) assist in the expansion of existing state programs
16 through reimbursable service agreements.

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

20 (c) The commissioner shall establish a contract procurement pro-
21 cess that insures free and open competition for programs established in
22 this chapter. Public and private nonprofit organizations and state
23 agencies may provide the services listed in AS 47.90.020.

24 Sec. 47.90.020. MULTIPURPOSE SERVICE CENTERS. A multipurpose
25 service center for displaced homemakers established under AS 47.90.010
26 may provide the following services:

27 (1) job counseling services which shall

28 (A) be specifically designed for displaced homemakers;

29 (B) counsel displaced homemakers regarding job oppor-

1 tunities; and

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

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

5 (A) emphasize short-term training programs which expand
6 upon homemaking skills and volunteer experience and which lead to
7 gainful employment;

8 (B) develop through cooperation with state and local
9 government agencies and private employers training and placement
10 programs for jobs in the public and private sector;

11 (C) assist displaced homemakers in gaining admission to
12 existing public and private job-training programs and opportunities
13 including vocational education, reentry into secondary and post-
14 secondary education, and apprenticeship training programs; and

15 (D) assist in identifying community needs and creating
16 new jobs, including nontraditional occupations, for displaced
17 homemakers in the public and private sector;

18 (3) health counseling services including referral to existing
19 health programs with respect to

20 (A) general principles of preventive health care;

21 (B) health care consumer education, particularly in the
22 selection of physicians and health care services including health
23 maintenance organizations and health insurance;

24 (C) mental health care and transitional counseling;

25 (D) family health care and nutrition;

26 (E) alcohol and drug abuse; and

27 (F) other related health care matters;

28 (4) financial management services which provide information
29 and assistance relating to insurance, taxes, estate and probate matters,

1 mortgages, loans, and related financial matters;

2 (5) educational services including

3 (A) information relating to courses offering credit
4 through secondary or postsecondary education programs and reentry
5 programs, including bilingual programs if appropriate, and infor-
6 mation relating to the availability of financial assistance; and

7 (B) information about other programs of benefit to
8 displaced homemakers;

9 (6) legal counseling and referral services; and

10 (7) information services with respect to federal and state
11 employment, education, health, public assistance, and unemployment
12 assistance programs which the commissioner determines to be of benefit
13 to displaced homemakers.

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

18 Sec. 47.90.040. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION. The commissioner
19 shall consult and cooperate with the Department of Health and Social
20 Services; the Department of Education, including the division of voca-
21 tional rehabilitation; the University of Alaska, community colleges and
22 other colleges as appropriate; the Department of Labor, including the
23 division of employment security; and other persons or agencies which the
24 commissioner considers appropriate in the implementation of this chap-
25 ter.

26 Sec. 47.90.050. CERTIFICATION OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS. The com-
27 missioner shall adopt regulations under which the commissioner may
28 certify individuals as displaced homemakers for the purposes of this
29 chapter.

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Sec. 47.90.060. STATE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE. Contractors operating programs under AS 47.90.010 shall, to the maximum extent possible, provide displaced homemakers with assistance in qualifying on state employment registers under regulations of the commissioner.

Sec. 47.90.070. REGULATIONS. The commissioner may adopt regulations to implement this chapter.

Sec. 47.90.080. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

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

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

(3) "displaced homemaker" means a person who

(A) has been a homemaker dependent on the income of a family member for at least six years; and

(B) has encountered difficulty in finding employment.

* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 1981.