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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 287 (Rules)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to displaced homemakers, and provid-
7 ing 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
10 finds that there is an increasing number of persons in the state who, after
11 having fulfilled the role of homemaker for a number of years, find them-
12 selves "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 discrimi-
15 nation in employment because they frequently have no recent work experience
16 and may be older than other applicants for employment, are subject to high
17 rates of unemployment and are ineligible for unemployment insurance because
18 they have been engaged in unpaid labor in the home, may be ineligible for
19 categorical welfare assistance, are ineligible for social security if they
20 have been divorced from the family wage earner, may have lost their rights
21 as beneficiaries under employers' pension and health plans through death of
22 a spouse or divorce despite the contribution of years to the well-being of
23 the family, and may be ineligible for Medicaid and unable to purchase pri-
24 vate health insurance because of age and lack of income. The legislature
25 further finds that homemakers are an unrecognized part of the work force of
26 the state who have made an invaluable contribution to the welfare of soci-
27 ety.

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 nonprofit corporations incorporated under
3 AS 10.20 and 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 government agencies, community groups,
12 and groups concerned with displaced homemakers, may

13 (1) contract with nonprofit corporations incorporated under
14 AS 10.20 for multipurpose service centers for displaced homemakers; and

15 (2) expand existing state programs for displaced homemakers
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 procedure that
21 insures open competition for carrying out programs established in this
22 chapter. Nonprofit corporations incorporated under AS 10.20 and state
23 agencies may provide the services listed in AS 47.90.020.

24 (d) To be eligible to contract under this chapter, a nonprofit
25 corporation incorporated under AS 10.20 shall be governed by a board of
26 directors whose membership is broadly representative of the community
27 which it serves.

28 Sec. 47.90.020. MULTIPURPOSE SERVICE CENTERS. (a) A multi-
29 purpose service center for displaced homemakers established under

AS 47.90.010 may provide the following services:

(1) job counseling services which shall

(A) be specifically designed for displaced homemakers;

(B) counsel displaced homemakers regarding job opportunities; and

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

(2) job training and job placement services which shall

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

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

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

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

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

(A) general principles of preventive health care;

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

(C) mental health care and transitional counseling;

1 (D) family health care and nutrition;
2 (E) alcohol and drug abuse, including the abuse of pre-
3 scription drugs; and

4 (F) other related health care matters;

5 (4) financial management services which provide information
6 and assistance relating to insurance, taxes, estate and probate mat-
7 ters, mortgages, loans, and related financial matters;

8 (5) educational services including

9 (A) information relating to courses offering credit
10 through secondary or postsecondary education programs and reentry
11 programs, including bilingual programs if appropriate, and infor-
12 mation relating to the availability of financial assistance; and

13 (B) information about other programs of benefit to
14 displaced homemakers;

15 (6) legal counseling and referral services;

16 (7) information services with respect to federal and state
17 employment, education, health, public assistance, and unemployment
18 assistance programs which the commissioner determines to be of benefit
19 to displaced homemakers.

20 (b) A multipurpose center for displaced homemakers may provide
21 assistance in obtaining child care, temporary babysitting expenses, and
22 transportation when it will aid a displaced homemaker to receive ser-
23 vices under (a) of this section.

24 Sec. 47.90.030. EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED HOME MAKERS. The staff
25 positions of multipurpose centers established under AS 47.90.010, in-
26 cluding supervisory, technical and administrative positions, shall to
27 the maximum extent possible be filled by displaced homemakers.

28 Sec. 47.90.040. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION. The commissioner
29 shall consult and cooperate with the Department of Health and Social

1 Services; the Department of Education, including the division of voca-
2 tional rehabilitation; the University of Alaska, community colleges and
3 other colleges as appropriate; the Department of Labor, including the
4 division of employment security; and other persons or agencies which
5 the commissioner considers appropriate in the implementation of this
6 chapter.

7 Sec. 47.90.050. STATE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE. Contractors operat-
8 ing programs under AS 47.90.010 shall, to the maximum extent possible,
9 provide displaced homemakers with assistance in qualifying on state
10 employment registers under regulations of the commissioner.

11 Sec. 47.90.060. REGULATIONS. The commissioner may adopt regula-
12 tions to implement this chapter.

13 Sec. 47.90.070. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

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

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

18 (3) "displaced homemaker" means a person who

19 (A) has worked as a homemaker providing unsalaried
20 services for the family;

21 (B) faces a significant reduction in family income or
22 support through divorce, death, separation, or disability; and

23 (C) has encountered difficulty in finding employment.

24 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1981.
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