

Original sponsors: Gardiner, Rogers,  
Meekins, et al

Offered: 6/23/81  
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 508 (Finance)

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, to child  
7 care facilities, and to child care assistance; and  
8 providing for an effective date."

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

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

29 (b) It is the intent of sec. 2 of this Act to

1 (1) provide the necessary counseling, aptitude testing, training,  
2 employment placement opportunities, and other services for displaced home-  
3 makers through contracts with nonprofit corporations incorporated under  
4 AS 10.20 and by using and expanding existing state programs;

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

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

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

10 CHAPTER 90. DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS.

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

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

16 (2) expand existing state programs for displaced homemakers  
17 through reimbursable service agreements.

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

21 (c) The commissioner shall establish a contract procedure that  
22 insures open competition for carrying out programs established in this  
23 chapter. Nonprofit corporations incorporated under AS 10.20 and state  
24 agencies may provide the services listed in AS 47.90.020.

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

29 Sec. 47.90.020. MULTIPURPOSE SERVICE CENTERS. (a) A multi-

1 purpose service center for displaced homemakers established under  
2 AS 47.90.010 may provide the following services:

3 (1) job counseling services that shall

4 (A) be specifically designed for displaced homemakers;

5 (B) counsel displaced homemakers regarding job oppor-  
6 tunities; and

7 (C) consider and build on the skills and experience of  
8 a homemaker and emphasize job readiness as well as skill develop-  
9 ment;

10 (2) job training and job placement services that shall

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

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

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

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

24 (3) health counseling services including referral to exist-  
25 ing health programs with respect to

26 (A) general principles of preventive health care;

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

- 1 (C) mental health care and transitional counseling;  
2 (D) family health care and nutrition;  
3 (E) alcohol and drug abuse, including the abuse of pre-  
4 scription drugs; and  
5 (F) other related health care matters;

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

9 (5) educational services including

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

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

16 (6) legal counseling and referral services;

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

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

25 Sec. 47.90.030. EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS. The staff  
26 positions of multipurpose centers established under AS 47.90.010, in-  
27 cluding supervisory, technical and administrative positions, shall to  
28 the maximum extent possible be filled by displaced homemakers when they  
29 are qualified.

1           Sec. 47.90.040. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION. The commissioner  
2 shall consult and cooperate with the Department of Health and Social  
3 Services; the Department of Education, including the division of voca-  
4 tional rehabilitation; the University of Alaska, community colleges and  
5 other colleges as appropriate; the Department of Labor, including the  
6 division of employment security; and other persons or agencies that the  
7 commissioner considers appropriate in the implementation of this chapter.

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

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

14           Sec. 47.90.070. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

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

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

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

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

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

24           (C) has encountered difficulty in finding employment.

25 \* Sec. 3. AS 44.33.245(a)(1) is amended to read:

26           (1) make loans for the construction, renovation, and equip-  
27 ping of child care facilities, including private nonprofit child care  
28 facilities;

29 \* Sec. 4. AS 44.33.255(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) A loan to a child care facility under AS 44.33.240 - 44.33.-  
2 275 may not exceed \$50,000 [\$30,000, AND NO MORE THAN ONE LOAN MAY BE  
3 MADE TO A SINGLE CHILD CARE FACILITY UNDER AS 44.33.240 - 44.33.275].

4 \* Sec. 5. AS 44.47.250(a)(1) is amended to read:

5 (1) implement and administer a program to assist in providing  
6 day care for the children of low and moderate income [LOW-INCOME]  
7 families according to the requirements of AS 44.47.250 - 44.47.310;

8 \* Sec. 6. AS 44.47.250(b)(2) is amended to read:

9 (2) contract with municipalities, or, if necessary, with day  
10 care facilities, to perform [ITS] duties of the department under  
11 AS 44.47.250 - 44.47.310 within that municipality; with the approval of  
12 the department, the municipality may subcontract with another organiza-  
13 tion in the community to perform administrative duties, or, if neces-  
14 sary, the department may contract with another organization to perform  
15 administrative duties;

16 \* Sec. 7. AS 44.47.260 is repealed and reenacted to read:

17 Sec. 44.47.260. CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION. When a contract is made  
18 under AS 44.47.250(b)(2) between the department and a municipality, or  
19 under AS 44.47.250(b)(4) between the department and an organization,  
20 the department shall pay to that municipality or organization the  
21 greater of

22 (1) an amount equal to 10 percent of the total annual day  
23 care benefits paid to day care facilities in the geographic area admin-  
24 istered by that municipality or organization; or

25 (2) \$1,000 per year.

26 \* Sec. 8. AS 44.47.270 is amended to read:

27 Sec. 44.47.270. CONDITIONS OF RECEIPT OF BENEFITS. Benefits may  
28 be paid for the care of children of a low or moderate income family  
29 only if a parent or guardian, because of the day care, is freed to work

1 or to seek work or to attend school. In no event shall benefits be  
2 paid for the care of children of a family where one parent or guardian  
3 is not working, actively seeking work, or attending school and is  
4 physically and mentally capable of caring for the children.

5 \* Sec. 9. AS 44.47 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 Sec. 44.47.301. CHILD CARE GRANT PROGRAM. (a) A child care grant  
7 program is established in the Department of Community and Regional  
8 Affairs to provide state assistance in the operation of child care  
9 facilities. The department shall provide grants for the operation of  
10 child care facilities, including private nonprofit child care facil-  
11 ities. Participation in the program is optional.

12 (b) To qualify for a grant under (a) or (d) of this section, the  
13 child care facility must

14 (1) be currently licensed under AS 47.35.010 - 47.35.080 and  
15 any applicable municipal licensing requirements;

16 (2) participate in the day care assistance program under  
17 AS 44.47.250 - 44.47.310;

18 (3) provide care under a payment system as provided in (g)  
19 of this section.

20 (c) A grant under this section may not exceed \$50 per month for  
21 each child the child care facility cares for, or for each full-time  
22 equivalent, as determined by the department. The grant shall be  
23 adjusted on a geographic basis by the same percentages as instructional  
24 unit allotments are adjusted under AS 14.17.051.

25 (d) In addition to the grants provided in (c) of this section,  
26 the department may, subject to appropriations for that purpose, provide  
27 by grant or contract for the education and training of child care  
28 employees or administrators. To receive a grant or contract under this  
29 subsection or to participate in a training program under this subsec-

1 tion, the child care facility must meet all the requirements of (b) of  
2 this section.

3 (e) Application for grants under this section shall be made in  
4 the form established by the department.

5 (f) A grant under (c) of this section shall be made monthly and  
6 shall be based on the average daily full-time equivalent enrollment in  
7 the child care facility during the calendar month preceding the date on  
8 which application for a grant is made.

9 (g) Each child care facility receiving a grant under this section  
10 shall assure that a specified number of child care positions are avail-  
11 able to children eligible for day care assistance under AS 44.47.250 -  
12 44.47.310, whose parents or guardians wish to pay for care based on the  
13 number of full-time equivalent days the child attends the facility.  
14 All child care positions not made available under a payment schedule  
15 based on enrollment shall be made available under a payment schedule  
16 based on attendance and at least one full-time equivalent position  
17 shall be made available based on attendance rather than enrollment.  
18 The maximum number of child care positions in each facility that may  
19 be made available under a payment schedule based on enrollment shall be  
20 determined each month under the following formula:

21 
$$M = (T+E) - (A+B)$$

22 where

23 M = maximum number of positions available under an enrollment-  
24 based fee schedule;

25 T = the total number of full-time equivalent child care positions  
26 in the facility

27 E = number of full-time equivalent positions during the month  
28 before computation with an enrollment-based fee schedule;

29 A = average daily full-time equivalent attendance during the

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29

month before computation in positions with an enrollment-based fee schedule;

B - maximum daily full-time equivalent attendance during the month before computation in positions with an attendance-based fee schedule.

(h) The commissioner shall, in consultation with interested child care providers and parents, adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this section.

\* Sec. 10. AS 44.47.310 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(6) "child care facility" means an establishment licensed under AS 47.35.010 - 47.35.080, including but not limited to day care centers, family day care homes, and schools for preschool age children, which provides care for children not related by blood, marriage, or legal adoption to the owner, operator, or manager of the facility.

\* Sec. 11. AS 44.33.250 and 44.33.260(2) are repealed.

\* Sec. 12. This Act takes effect July 1, 1981.