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Referred: Community & Regional
Affairs and Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SIMSON AND FISCHER

2 SENATE BILL NO. 169

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 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 government 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
3 a homemaker and emphasize job readiness as well as skill develop-
4 ment;

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

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

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

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

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

19 (3) health counseling services including referral to exist-
20 ing health programs with respect to

21 (A) general principles of preventive health care;

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

25 (C) mental health care and transitional counseling;

26 (D) family health care and nutrition;

27 (E) alcohol and drug abuse; and

28 (F) other related health care matters;

29 (4) financial management services which provide information

1 and assistance relating to insurance, taxes, estate and probate mat-
2 ters, mortgages, loans, and related financial matters;

3 (5) educational services including

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

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

10 (6) legal counseling and referral services; and

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

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

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

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

1 chapter.

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

6 Sec. 47.90.070. REGULATIONS. The commissioner may adopt regula-
7 tions to implement this chapter.

8 Sec. 47.90.080. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

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

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

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

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

16 (B) has encountered difficulty in finding employment.

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