

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 515

Session of
1985

INTRODUCED BY COWELL, PISTELLA, ARTY, HARPER, RUDY,
E. Z. TAYLOR, D. R. WRIGHT, MARKOSEK, BUNT, LINTON, KUKOVICH,
DAWIDA, ITKIN, BATTISTO, AFFLERBACH, COLAFELLA, SWEET,
BELARDI, PRATT, GANNON, LEVDANSKY, PRESTON, IRVIS, KASUNIC,
KOSINSKI, RYBAK, FATTAH, BELFANTI, GALLAGHER, HALUSKA AND
DeLUCA, FEBRUARY 27, 1985

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 27, 1985

AN ACT

1 Providing for the creation of a multipurpose program for
2 displaced homemakers; further providing for powers and duties
3 of the Department of Education; and making an appropriation.

4 The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that there is
5 an ever-increasing number of persons in this Commonwealth who,
6 having fulfilled roles as homemakers, find themselves
7 "displaced" through divorce, death of spouse or other loss of
8 family income. As a consequence, displaced homemakers are very
9 often without any source of income. They may be ineligible for
10 categorical welfare assistance. Because they have been engaged
11 in unpaid labor in the home, they are ineligible for
12 unemployment insurance. They are subject to high unemployment
13 and face discrimination in seeking employment because they have
14 no recent paid work experience. Because of divorce from or death
15 of spouse, many will never benefit from the Social Security
16 System and have lost the rights to pension and health plans.

1 Many are ineligible for medicaid because they are too young; and
2 many are unable to purchase private health insurance because
3 they are too old or lack the resources to purchase such
4 insurance.

5 The General Assembly acknowledges and commends the commitment
6 by the Department of Education, through the use of Federal
7 vocational education funds, to initiate and support programs to
8 aid the displaced homemaker. Further, the General Assembly
9 recognizes that Federal support to the Commonwealth for
10 education has declined in recent years. It is the intent of the
11 General Assembly in enacting this act to provide funds to
12 augment, not supplant, Federal funds being allocated by the
13 Department of Education for displaced homemakers programs.
14 Specifically, these funds shall be used, in addition to Federal
15 funds, to continue existing programs and to create programs in
16 areas of the Commonwealth which are currently underserved or
17 unserved.

18 Further, it is the intention of the General Assembly in
19 enacting this act to reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to
20 provide the necessary counseling, training, employment placement
21 and other services for displaced homemakers so that they may
22 attain the independence and economic security vital to a
23 productive life and to improve the health and welfare of this
24 ever-growing group of citizens.

25 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
26 hereby enacts as follows:

27 Section 1. Short title.

28 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Displaced
29 Homemakers Act.

30 Section 2. Definitions.

1 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
2 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
3 context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 "Department." The Department of Education of the
5 Commonwealth.

6 "Displaced homemaker." A person who meets all of the
7 following criteria:

8 (1) Has worked without pay as a homemaker for his or her
9 family.

10 (2) Is not adequately employed.

11 (3) Has had or would have difficulty finding employment.

12 (4) Has depended on the income of a family member and
13 has lost that income; or is or has been dependent on
14 governmental assistance; or has been the recipient of
15 disability assistance and is no longer eligible.

16 Section 3. Powers and duties.

17 The department shall establish a multipurpose displaced
18 homemaker program for displaced homemakers in this Commonwealth.
19 To the greatest extent possible, the department shall make
20 grants to or otherwise utilize existing nonprofit agencies,
21 organizations and educational institutions to deliver the
22 various services as enumerated in this section. Consideration
23 should be given, when funding new programs, to the areas of the
24 Commonwealth which are underserved or have no appropriate
25 programs for displaced homemakers. The displaced homemaker
26 program shall be designed and staffed as follows:

27 (1) The program shall be designed to provide displaced
28 homemakers with the necessary counseling, training, skills,
29 services and education to become adequately employed and
30 independent.

1 (2) To the greatest extent possible, the staff of the
2 program, including supervisory, technical, administrative and
3 volunteer positions, shall be filled by displaced homemakers.
4 Where necessary, potential staff members shall be provided
5 with on-the-job training by independent contractors or
6 volunteer agencies.

7 (3) The department shall explore all possible sources of
8 funding and in-kind contributions from Federal, local and
9 private sources in establishing the displaced homemaker
10 program, including building space, equipment and qualified
11 personnel for training purposes. The department shall
12 prepare, and update as needed, a list of the above funding
13 sources. This list shall be made available to all programs
14 currently funded by the department and to all parties
15 submitting requests for funding of displaced homemakers
16 programs.

17 (4) The department shall develop a plan with the
18 Department of Labor and Industry to utilize the program
19 resources of the Pennsylvania State Employment Service to
20 include displaced homemakers in existing job-training
21 programs, including, but not limited to, programs and
22 services available under the Federal Job Training Partnership
23 Act (Public Law 97-300, 29 U.S.C. § 1501 et seq.)

24 Section 4. Services to be provided.

25 Services to be provided by funded displaced homemaker
26 programs shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

27 (1) A career counseling service designed specifically
28 for the person entering the job market after a number of
29 years as a homemaker. The counseling will take into account
30 and build upon the skills and experience of a homemaker. Peer

1 counseling and job readiness, as well as skill updating and
2 development, shall be emphasized.

3 (2) Educational programs, including courses offering
4 credit through postsecondary educational institutions; adult
5 basic education programs; vocational education programs; or
6 programs leading toward a high school equivalency degree or
7 certificate.

8 (3) A job training service developed with government
9 agencies and private employers to provide displaced
10 homemakers with training programs for jobs in the public and
11 private sectors. To this end, the staff shall include the
12 program services of the Pennsylvania State Employment
13 Service.

14 (4) A job placement service to assist the displaced
15 homemaker in finding permanent employment. To this end, the
16 staff shall work with the Pennsylvania State Employment
17 Service and prime sponsors under the Federal Job Training
18 Partnership Act (Public Law 97-300, 29 U.S.C. § 1501 et seq.)
19 to secure employment for displaced homemakers.

20 (5) Money management courses, including information and
21 assistance in dealing with insurance programs (life, health
22 and car), taxes, mortgage loans, credit and probate problems.

23 (6) Outreach and information for government programs,
24 including specific information and assistance with
25 supplemental security income, social security, veterans
26 administration benefits, welfare, food stamps, unemployment
27 insurance and medicaid.

28 Section 5. Regulations and annual evaluation.

29 (a) Regulations.--The department shall, in the manner
30 provided by law, establish the regulations necessary to carry

1 out this act.

2 (b) Evaluation.--The department shall prepare an annual
3 evaluation report of the displaced homemakers program. The
4 report shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the
5 components of the programs, including: the number of persons
6 trained, the number of persons placed in employment, followup
7 data on such persons, the number of persons served by the other
8 various service programs and cost-effectiveness of the
9 components of the programs. The department shall make this
10 report annually to the Governor and the Education Committees of
11 the Senate and the House of Representatives.

12 Section 6. Appropriation.

13 The sum of \$300,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department
14 of Education to carry out this act. These funds shall be deemed
15 to be in addition to, and not a replacement of, any funding
16 sources currently being utilized to fund programs aiding
17 displaced homemakers.

18 Section 7. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect July 1, 1985.