

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2255 Session of
2000

INTRODUCED BY MANDERINO, RAYMOND, ADOLPH, BAKER, BARRAR,
BATTISTO, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BISHOP, BROWNE,
BUNT, CAPPABIANCA, CARN, CIVERA, L. I. COHEN, M. COHEN,
COSTA, COY, CURRY, DALEY, DeLUCA, DERMODY, DeWEESE,
FAIRCHILD, FEESE, FICHTER, FLICK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GANNON,
GEIST, GEORGE, GIGLIOTTI, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HARHAI,
HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS, KENNEY,
KIRKLAND, LaGROTTA, LEDERER, LESCOVITZ, LYNCH, MAHER, MANN,
McCALL, McILHATTAN, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, MICOZZIE, R. MILLER,
MUNDY, MYERS, NICKOL, O'BRIEN, ORIE, PETRARCA, PETRONE,
PISTELLA, RAMOS, ROBINSON, ROEBUCK, ROONEY, ROSS, RUBLEY,
SAYLOR, SCHULER, SCRIMENTI, SEYFERT, SHANER, STABACK,
STEELMAN, STERN, STETLER, STURLA, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR,
THOMAS, TRAVAGLIO, TRICH, VEON, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATERS,
WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK, PLATTS, SNYDER,
HERSHEY AND DALLY, FEBRUARY 10, 2000

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 10, 2000

AN ACT

1 Authorizing the maintenance and operation of multipurpose
2 service centers for displaced homemakers and single parents;
3 providing for powers and duties of the Department of
4 Education; and making an appropriation.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Displaced
9 Homemaker and Single Parent Self-Sufficiency Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Displaced homemaker" or "single parent." An individual who:

3 (1) Has worked in the home, providing unpaid household
4 services for family members.

5 (2) Is not gainfully employed or is underemployed.

6 (3) Has had, is experiencing or would have difficulty in
7 securing adequate employment.

8 (4) Has been dependent on the income of another family
9 member but is no longer supported by such income, or has been
10 dependent on government assistance but is no longer eligible
11 for such assistance, or is supported as the parent of minor
12 children by government assistance or other support.

13 "Multipurpose service center." A community-based
14 organization, local educational agency, postsecondary school,
15 institution of higher learning or area vocational education
16 school that provides the services specified in section 4 for
17 displaced homemakers and single parents.

18 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.
19 Section 3. Powers and duties of secretary.

20 (a) Contracts.--The secretary may enter into contracts with
21 and make grants to public and nonprofit private entities for
22 purposes of supporting existing multipurpose centers, known as
23 "New Choices/New Options Career Development Centers."

24 (b) Application.--An application to become a multipurpose
25 service center shall be submitted to and approved by the
26 secretary on or before June 30, 2000. The secretary shall either
27 approve or disapprove the application prior to the multipurpose
28 service center being eligible to receive State funding. The
29 application shall include a statistical assessment of the
30 service area and the service needs thereof, including proven

1 experience and success in assisting displaced homemakers and
2 single parents to achieve self-sufficiency as currently
3 demonstrated by the Multipurpose Service Center and a
4 demonstration of fiscal support and stability.

5 (c) Revocation of approved application.--The secretary may
6 revoke the approval of a multipurpose service center if the
7 center fails to meet the criteria established under section 4.
8 The approval of a multipurpose service center shall remain in
9 effect unless revoked by the secretary.

10 Section 4. Multipurpose service centers.

11 (a) Services to be provided.--A multipurpose service center
12 shall provide the following:

13 (1) Job counseling services which shall:

14 (i) Be specifically designed for a person entering
15 the job market after a number of years as a homemaker and
16 include life skills training and counseling to prepare
17 displaced homemakers and single parents to enter and
18 sustain training and employment.

19 (ii) Operate to counsel displaced homemakers and
20 single parents with respect to appropriate job
21 opportunities, including high skill or high wage jobs
22 leading to self-sufficiency.

23 (iii) Prevocational training and educational
24 services including outreach and information about such
25 other programs which are determined to benefit displaced
26 homemakers and single parents to achieve economic self-
27 sufficiency.

28 (iv) Provide training-related support services,
29 including, but not limited to, dependent care,
30 transportation, tuition, books, equipment and tools.

1 (v) Job search skills training to prepare displaced
2 homemakers and single parents for writing resumes,
3 completing job applications and employment interviewing.

4 (2) Job training, educational and job placement services
5 which shall provide information, direct training, referrals
6 to institutions providing postsecondary education credits or
7 other training that is appropriate for the individual to
8 become economically self-sufficient, including basic
9 education and bilingual programs when appropriate. Training
10 shall include courses offered through varied sources:

11 (i) Develop, in collaboration with State and local
12 government agencies and private employers, placement
13 programs for jobs in the public and private sectors.

14 (ii) Financial assistance in the payment of expenses
15 related to training and assisting displaced homemakers
16 and single parents to gain admission to existing public
17 and private job training programs and opportunities and
18 to determine eligibility for financial aid.

19 (iii) Assist in identifying community needs and
20 creating new jobs in the public and private sectors.

21 (3) Information about and referrals to appropriate
22 health education sources shall be provided.

23 (4) Financial management services which provide
24 referrals for information with respect to insurance, taxes,
25 estate and probate problems, mortgages, loans and other
26 related financial matters.

27 (5) Outreach and information services with respect to
28 Federal and State employment, education, health and
29 unemployment assistance programs which the secretary
30 determines would be beneficial to displaced homemakers and

1 single parents.

2 Section 5. Allocation of State funding.

3 (a) Projected expenditures to be submitted.--A multipurpose
4 service center shall submit projected expenditures to the
5 secretary for review prior to allocation of funding. The
6 secretary shall establish eligibility criteria which
7 multipurpose service centers must annually meet in order to
8 qualify for assistance under this act.

9 (b) Priority in allocation of funds.--The secretary shall
10 allocate and distribute State funding among multipurpose service
11 centers. Priority for financial assistance shall be given to
12 those multipurpose service centers that received State
13 assistance during fiscal year 1998-1999.

14 Section 6. Evaluation.

15 The secretary shall prepare and furnish to the General
16 Assembly a report, not later than one year after the effective
17 date of this act, which report shall include a thorough
18 assessment of each multipurpose service center.

19 Section 7. Nondiscrimination.

20 No person shall on the ground of sex, age, race, color,
21 religion or national origin be excluded from participating in,
22 be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination
23 under, any program or activity funded in whole or in part with
24 funds made available under this act.

25 Section 8. Appropriation.

26 The sum of \$3,700,000 is hereby appropriated to the
27 Department of Education for the establishment and operation of
28 the multipurpose service centers authorized by this act.

29 Section 9. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect immediately.