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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE BILL

No. 4

Session of  
2001

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MANN, STABACK, BISHOP, DALLY, ORIE, STERN, ARMSTRONG, CIVERA,  
ZIMMERMAN AND STRITTMATTER, FEBRUARY 5, 2001

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SENATOR RHOADES, EDUCATION, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, MAY 22, 2001

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AN ACT

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.  
21 Section 3. Powers and duties of secretary.

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

26 (b) Application.--An application to become a multipurpose  
27 service center shall be submitted annually to and BE approved <—  
28 annually by the secretary. The secretary shall either approve or  
29 disapprove the application prior to the multipurpose service  
30 center being eligible to receive State funding. The application

1 shall include a statistical assessment of the service area and  
2 the service needs thereof, including proven experience and  
3 success in assisting displaced homemakers and single parents to  
4 achieve self-sufficiency as currently demonstrated by the  
5 multipurpose service center and a demonstration of fiscal  
6 support and stability. ~~The application shall also include an~~ <—  
7 ~~explanation of how the multipurpose service center will~~  
8 ~~coordinate with the local Team Pennsylvania Career Link Center~~  
9 ~~under the direction of the Department of Labor and Industry, or~~  
10 ~~similar successor to such a center, in order to enhance services~~  
11 ~~to clients and avoid duplication.~~

12 (c) Revocation of approved application.--The secretary may  
13 revoke the approval of a multipurpose service center if the  
14 center fails to meet the criteria established under section 4.  
15 The approval of a multipurpose service center shall remain in  
16 effect FOR ONE YEAR FOLLOWING APPROVAL unless revoked by the <—  
17 secretary.

18 Section 4. Multipurpose service centers.

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

21 (1) Job counseling services which shall:

22 (i) Be specifically designed for a person entering  
23 the job market after a number of years as a homemaker and  
24 include life skills training and counseling to prepare  
25 displaced homemakers and single parents to enter and  
26 sustain training and employment.

27 (ii) Operate to counsel displaced homemakers and  
28 single parents with respect to appropriate job  
29 opportunities, including high skill or high wage jobs  
30 leading to self-sufficiency.

1           ~~Prevocational~~ PROVIDE PREVOCATIONAL training       <—  
2           and educational services including outreach and  
3           information about such other programs which are  
4           determined to benefit displaced homemakers and single  
5           parents to achieve economic self-sufficiency.  
6           (iv) Provide training-related support services,  
7           including, but not limited to, dependent care,  
8           transportation, tuition, books, equipment and tools.  
9           (v) ~~Job~~ PROVIDE JOB search skills training to       <—  
10          prepare displaced homemakers and single parents for  
11          writing resumes, completing job applications and  
12          employment interviewing.  
13          (2) Job training, educational and job placement services  
14          which shall provide information, direct training, referrals  
15          to institutions providing postsecondary education credits or  
16          other training that is appropriate for the individual to  
17          become economically self-sufficient, including basic  
18          education and bilingual programs when appropriate. Training  
19          shall ~~include~~ CONSIST OF courses offered through varied       <—  
20          sources ~~which shall~~, INCLUDING:       <—  
21               (i) ~~Develop~~ DEVELOPING, in collaboration with State       <—  
22               and local government agencies and private employers,  
23               placement programs for jobs in the public and private  
24               sectors.  
25               (ii) ~~Provide~~ PROVIDING financial assistance in the       <—  
26               payment of expenses related to training and ~~assist~~       <—  
27               ASSISTING displaced homemakers and single parents to gain       <—  
28               admission to existing public and private job training  
29               programs and opportunities and determine eligibility for  
30               financial aid.

1                   (iii) ~~Assist~~ ASSISTING in identifying community                   <—  
2                   needs and creating new jobs in the public and private  
3                   sectors.

4                   (3) Information about and referrals to appropriate  
5                   health education sources ~~shall be provided.~~                   <—

6                   (4) Financial management services which provide  
7                   referrals for information with respect to insurance, taxes,  
8                   estate and probate problems, mortgages, loans and other  
9                   related financial matters.

10                  (5) Outreach and information services with respect to  
11                  Federal and State employment, education, health and  
12                  unemployment assistance programs which the secretary  
13                  determines would be beneficial to displaced homemakers and  
14                  single parents.

15 Section 5. Allocation of State funding.

16                  (a) Projected expenditures to be submitted.--A multipurpose  
17                  service center shall submit projected expenditures to the  
18                  secretary for review prior to allocation of funding. The  
19                  secretary shall establish eligibility criteria which  
20                  multipurpose service centers must annually meet in order to  
21                  qualify for assistance under this act.

22                  (b) Priority in allocation of funds.--The secretary shall  
23                  allocate and distribute State funding among multipurpose service  
24                  centers ~~in rural, urban and suburban regions of this~~                   <—  
25                  Commonwealth. Priority for financial assistance shall be given  
26                  to those multipurpose service centers that received State  
27                  assistance during fiscal year 1998-1999.

28 Section 6. Evaluation.

29                  The secretary shall prepare and furnish to the General  
30                  Assembly a report, not later than one year after the effective

1 date of this act, which report shall include a thorough  
2 assessment of each multipurpose service center.

3 Section 7. Nondiscrimination.

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

9 Section 8. Effective date.

10 This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, or immediately,  
11 whichever is later.