

52:27D-43.18 to 52:27D-43.24

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

WJSA 52:27D-43.18 to 52:27D 43.24 ("Displaced Homemaker Act")

LAWS OF 1979 CHAPTER 125

Bill No. A1674

Sponsor(s) Kiernan and others

Date Introduced Sept. 25, 1978

Committee: Assembly Institutions, Health and Welfare

Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare

Amended during passage Yes ~~xxx~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly Nov. 30, 1978

Senate April 26, 1979

Date of approval July 3, 1979

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~xxx~~

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ~~xxx~~ 11-13-78 & 2-20-79

Senate Yesx No

Fiscal Note Yesx No

Veto message Yesx No

Message on signing Yesx No

Following were printed:

Reports Yesx No

Hearings Yesx No

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ASSEMBLY, No. 1674

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 25, 1978

By Assemblywoman KIERNAN, Assemblyman FLYNN, Assemblywoman CROCE, Assemblymen JANISZEWSKI, SCHWARTZ, Assemblywomen GARVIN, SCANLON, KALIK, McCONNELL, Assemblymen BURSTEIN, DOYLE, NEWMAN, WEIDEL, GORMLEY, SNEDEKER, SAXTON, Assemblywoman TOTARO, Assemblymen BAER and MARTIN

Referred to Committee on Institutions, Health and Welfare

AN ACT authorizing the Department of Community Affairs to ***[develop and provide technical assistance for establishing programs]*** **identify existing displaced homemaker programs and develop and provide technical assistance for the expansion of existing programs to include a component** for certain displaced homemakers****[, and making an appropriation therefor]**.**

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Displaced
2 Homemakers Act."

1 2. As used in this act, a "displaced homemaker" is an individual
2 who has not worked in the labor force for a substantial number of
3 years but has, during those years, worked in the home providing
4 unpaid services for family members and has been dependent upon
5 the income of another family member but is no longer supported
6 by that income and:

7 a. Is receiving public assistance because of dependent children
8 in the home but is within 1 year of no longer being eligible for such
9 assistance; or

10 b. Is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty
11 in obtaining or upgrading employment; or

12 c. Is at least 40 years of age, an age at which discrimination
13 based on age is likely, and at which entry or reentry to or advance-
14 ment in the labor market is difficult.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

15 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department
16 of Community Affairs.

17 “Division” shall mean the Division on Women within the De-
18 partment of Community Affairs.

1 3. The Division on Women in the Department of Community
2 Affairs shall *~~develop and provide technical assistance for the~~
3 establishment of multi-purpose programs which shall include, but
4 not be limited to:~~]~~* *identify existing displaced homemaker pro-*
4A *vide technical assistance and encouragement for the expansion of*
4B *other multi-purpose programs which provide:**

5 a. Job counseling services which are specifically designed for
6 displaced homemakers, and which aid them in acquiring knowledge
7 of their talents and skills in relation to existing jobs, and which
8 counsel displaced homemakers with respect to appropriate job
9 opportunities.

10 b. Job training and job placement services which develop, by
11 working with State and local government agencies and private
12 employers, training and placement programs for jobs in the public
13 and private sectors, *~~and]~~* which assist participants in gaining
14 admission to existing public and private job training programs and
15 opportunities*~~].~~ The program shall also assist in identifying com-
16 munity needs which would create~~]~~* *, *and which identify com-*
17 *munity needs and encourage the creation of** new jobs in the public
17A and private sectors.

18 c. Health education and counseling services which cooperate
19 with existing health programs to provide counseling on preventive
20 health care, health care consumer education, family health care and
21 nutrition, alcohol and drug addiction, and overcoming health
22 barriers to employment.

23 d. Financial management services which provide information
24 and assistance with respect to credit, insurance, taxes, estate and
25 probate problems, mortgages, loans, and other related financial
26 matters.

27 e. Educational services, including outreach and information
28 about courses offering credit through secondary or post-secondary
29 education programs, and including bilingual programs where ap-
30 propriate, as well as information about other programs which are
31 determined to be of interest and benefit to displaced homemakers
32 in developing employable skills.

33 f. Legal counseling and referral services.

34 g. Outreach and information services with respect to Federal
35 and State employment, education, health, public assistance, and
36 unemployment assistance programs.

1 4. Programs ~~developed~~ *identified and expanded* under this
 2 act shall emphasize activities which provide training and other
 3 employment-related services for displaced homemakers which are
 4 designed to enhance their employability and earnings. ~~Pro-~~
 5 ~~grams~~ *Such programs* shall concentrate on creating new job
 6 opportunities for displaced homemakers in order to meet identified
 7 needs within the community.

1 5. The Division on Women within the Department of Community
 2 Affairs shall make a continuous study of the needs of displaced
 3 homemakers, and effective programs and services *and funding*
 4 *available* to meet those needs. The division shall also coordinate
 5 community organizations, women's groups, and public agencies to
 6 maximize the utilization of existing programs and resources. Such
 7 coordination shall include, but not be limited to the Division on
 8 Aging in the Department of Community Affairs, the Office on
 9 Women of the Division of Vocational Education in the Department
 10 of Education, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 11 in the Department of Labor and Industry, and the Division of
 12 Welfare in the Department of Human Services. The goal of this
 13 coordination shall be to put eligible people in touch with *existing*
 14 programs and to foster cooperation and the exchange of information
 15 among all departments and agencies of State Government which
 16 sponsor programs for which displaced homemakers would be eligi-
 17 ble.

1 6. The division shall compile and maintain a description and
 2 assessment of each program operating pursuant to this act, includ-
 3 ing the number of displaced homemakers served, the number who
 4 obtained employment, the number who enrolled in educational
 5 courses, the number of those enrolled who completed such educa-
 6 tional courses, the cost per displaced homemaker for each program,
 7 and the total number of staff and staff ratio to persons served
 8 under the program. Such report shall be available within 1 year of
 9 the effective date of the act.

1 7. The commissioner may seek, receive and make use of any
 2 funds which may be available from Federal or other sources in
 3 order to augment any State funds appropriated for the purposes
 4 of this act, and shall make every effort to qualify the program for
 5 Federal funding.

1 ~~8.~~ The sum of ~~\$50,000.00~~ *\$25,000.00* is hereby appropri-
 2 ated to the Department of Community Affairs to effectuate the
 3 purposes of this act. ~~9.~~

1 ~~9.~~ ~~8.~~ This act shall take effect 180 days following
 2 enactment.

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4 needs. The division shall also coordinate community organizations,
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7 clude, but not be limited to the Division on Aging in the Department
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9 Vocational Education in the Department of Education, the Division
10 of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Labor
11 and Industry, and the Division of Welfare in the Department of
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4 of this act, and shall make every effort to qualify the program for
5 Federal funding.

1 8. The sum of \$50,000.00 is hereby appropriated to the Depart-
2 ment of Community Affairs to effectuate the purposes of this act.

1 9. This act shall take effect 180 days following enactment.

STATEMENT

The middle-aged woman who has spent most of her adult life working in the home often finds it very difficult to take on the role of providing support for herself or her family following divorce or the death of her spouse. She is often unprepared to overcome the barriers of entering the labor force without marketable skills or training. Too often these women fall between the cracks of Federal and State programs. They are frequently ineligible for

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social security benefits because they are too young, or they are divorced from the wage earner. They are ineligible for Federal welfare assistance if they are not physically disabled and their children are past a certain age. They are unable to apply for unemployment insurance because they have engaged in unpaid labor in the home.

It is difficult to determine exactly how many people would qualify as displaced homemakers because homemakers do not often appear in Government statistics and their contributions to the economy are not recognized. However, the Alliance for Displaced Homemakers of Oakland, California, has estimated that over 2.2 million women fell into this category as of March 1973. Additionally, a large number of women can be categorized as potential displaced homemakers. Married women between the ages of 34 and 64 are not in the labor force and who have no children under 18 totaled 7.5 million in March 1973. Moreover, 15 million women out of the labor force who currently have minor children will be without benefits when their children reach the age of 18.

Statistics on women in the middle years speak dramatically on the need for displaced homemakers legislation. In 1973 there were 9,851,000 widows and 3,275,000 divorced women, a 41 percent increase in widows since 1950 and a 66 percent increase in divorces since 1950. In 1975, there were 10,104,000 widows and 3,978,000 divorced women, a 45 percent increase in the number of widows since 1950 and a 223 percent increase in the number of divorced women since 1950.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Division on Women in the Department of Community Affairs, to develop and provide technical assistance for the establishment of programs which will enable displaced homemakers to enter or reenter the labor market. The division will coordinate existing programs in the public and private sector to create job opportunities for displaced homemakers.

ASSEMBLY INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1674

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 13, 1978

The purpose of this bill, as amended by committee, is to require the Division of Women in the Department of Community Affairs to identify existing displaced homemaker programs and to develop and provide technical assistance for the expansion of other programs which will enable displaced homemakers to enter or re-enter the labor market. The division's primary role will be in coordinating existing programs in the public and private sector. Furthermore, the Division will encourage and provide technical assistance to programs which promote the creation of job opportunities for displaced homemakers and which provide health education and counseling services, financial management services, educational services, legal counseling and referral services, and outreach and information services.

The \$50,000.00 appropriation was also reduced to \$25,000.00 by committee amendment.

ASSEMBLY INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1674

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 20, 1979

A "displaced homemaker" is, typically, a woman over 40 who has not worked in the labor force for many years, has, instead, worked in the home for no pay and has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income.

The purpose of this bill is to provide for Statewide identification and coordination of services and programs available to displaced homemakers. The bill requires the Division on Women to make a continuous study of the needs of displaced homemakers; to identify existing programs for these homemakers; and to provide technical assistance and encouragement for the expansion of multi-purpose programs which provide various services to help displaced homemakers enter the labor force.