

QUALIFY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN DIVORCED FROM THE FAMILY WAGE EARNER; THEY HAVE OFTEN LOST THEIR RIGHTS AS BENEFICIARIES UNDER EMPLOYERS' PENSION AND HEALTH PLANS THROUGH DIVORCE OR DEATH OF SPOUSE, DESPITE MANY YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE FAMILY WELL-BEING, AND ARE GENERALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS BECAUSE OF THEIR AGE.

THE LEGISLATURE FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT HOMEMAKERS ARE AN UNRECOGNIZED PART OF THE WORK FORCE WHO MAKE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE OF THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE LEGISLATURE IN ENACTING THIS CHAPTER TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY COUNSELING, TRAINING, JOBS, SERVICES, AND HEALTH CARE FOR DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS SO THAT THEY MAY ENJOY THE INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC SECURITY VITAL TO A PRODUCTIVE LIFE AND TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THIS EVER-GROWING GROUP OF CITIZENS.

91.

AS USED IN THIS CHAPTER, "DISPLACED HOMEMAKER" IS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

- (A) IS OVER 35;
- (B) HAS WORKED WITHOUT PAY AS A HOMEMAKER FOR HIS OR HER FAMILY;
- (C) IS NOT GAINFULLY EMPLOYED;
- (D) HAS HAD, OR WOULD HAVE, DIFFICULTY FINDING EMPLOYMENT; AND
- (E) (1) HAS DEPENDED ON THE INCOME OF A FAMILY MEMBER AND HAS LOST THAT INCOME; OR
(2) HAS DEPENDED ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AS THE PARENT OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN, BUT WHO IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE.

92.

THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES SHALL ESTABLISH A MULTIPURPOSE SERVICE CENTER FOR DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS IN EACH COUNTY AND BALTIMORE CITY. TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE THE SECRETARY SHALL MAKE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT AGENCIES OR ORGANIZATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF THE CENTERS, AS ENUMERATED IN SECTIONS 94 TO 99, INCLUSIVE. THE SERVICE CENTERS SHALL BE DESIGNED AND STAFFED AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) EACH OF THE MULTIPURPOSE SERVICE CENTERS SHALL BE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS WITH THE NECESSARY COUNSELING, TRAINING, SKILLS, SERVICES, AND EDUCATION TO BECOME GAINFULLY EMPLOYED, HEALTHY, AND