

CHAPTER 162

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

SENATE BILL 95-101

BY SENATORS Pascoe, Hopper, Thiebaut, Bishop, Casey, Feeley, Gallagher, Johnson, Mares, Martinez, L. Powers, Rupert, Tanner, Weddig, and Weissmann;
also REPRESENTATIVES Prinster, Reeves, Dean, Lamm, Musgrave, Paschall, and Reeser.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TEENAGE PARENT DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. Article 4 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1989 Repl. Vol., as amended, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART to read:

PART 8

PILOT PROGRAM FOR TEEN PREGNANCY AND DROPOUT PREVENTION

26-4-801. Legislative declaration. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT THE INCIDENCES OF TEEN PREGNANCIES IN THE STATE RAISE HEALTH ISSUES SUCH AS PRENATAL CARE, LOW-WEIGHT BIRTHS, PROPER IMMUNIZATIONS, AND OTHER WELL-CARE ISSUES AND THAT THOSE HEALTH ISSUES RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE STATE'S MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALSO FINDS THAT TEENAGERS WHO BECOME PARENTS HAVE A GREATER PROPENSITY TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL BEFORE FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL AND FREQUENTLY BECOME AN ECONOMIC BURDEN UPON THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE STATE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THEREFORE, DECLARES THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING SHOULD ANALYZE THE FEASIBILITY OF A TEEN PREGNANCY AND DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES SELF-SUFFICIENCY, SELF-RELIANCE, AND A SENSE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN TEENAGERS TO MAKE APPROPRIATE FAMILY PLANNING DECISIONS.

26-4-802. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS PART 8, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

(1) "AT-RISK TEENAGER" MEANS A PERSON UNDER NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE WHO RESIDES IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH THERE IS A PREPONDERANCE OF POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, CRIME, SCHOOL DROPOUTS, A SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE POPULATION, TEEN PREGNANCIES AND TEEN PARENTS, OR OTHER CONDITIONS THAT PUT FAMILIES AT RISK.

(2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING.

26-4-803. Pilot program - teen pregnancy and dropout prevention. (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZES THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE PILOT PROGRAM FOR TEEN PREGNANCY AND DROPOUT PREVENTION TO SERVE TEENAGERS WHO ARE MEDICAID RECIPIENTS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN A PROGRAM BASED UPON COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE, PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT HAVE BEEN FUNDED UNDER THE STATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, THE USE OF PROGRAM DESIGNS THAT INCLUDE ACCURATE METHODS FOR MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM, AND AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL FUNDS AND LOCAL OR PRIVATE FUNDING. THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK ANY FEDERAL WAIVERS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS PART 8.

(2) (a) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM SHALL BE TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCES OF TEEN PREGNANCY AND SCHOOL DROPOUTS BY PROVIDING SUPPORT SERVICES TO AT-RISK TEENAGERS AND TO TEEN PARENTS.

(b) SUCH SERVICES MAY INCLUDE, BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING SERVICES OR COMBINATION OF SERVICES:

(I) INTENSIVE INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP COUNSELING, WHICH INCLUDES A COMPONENT ON DELAYED PARENTING;

(II) VOCATIONAL, HEALTH, AND EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE;

(III) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES SUCH AS HOME VISITS OR VISITING NURSE SERVICES.

(c) IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING THE SERVICES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE DEPARTMENT MAY DEVELOP INCENTIVES FOR TEEN PARENTS WHO RECEIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT AND DELAY FURTHER PARENTING CHOICES.

(3) THE TEEN PREGNANCY AND DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAM SHALL BE FINANCED WITH FEDERAL FUNDS, LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND ANY GRANTS OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE ENTITIES. NO GENERAL FUND MONEYS SHALL BE USED TO FINANCE THE PROGRAM.

26-4-804. Report. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 1997, DEMONSTRATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM.

26-4-805. Repeal of part. THIS PART 8 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2000.

SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 22, 1995