

CHAPTER 262

HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES

HOUSE BILL 98-1092

BY REPRESENTATIVES Kreutz, Pankey, and Leyba;
also SENATORS Coffman and Lacy.

AN ACT

CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

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

SECTION 1. Article 2 of title 26, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART to read:

**PART 9
COLORADO SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND EMPLOYMENT ACT**

26-2-901. Short title. THIS PART 9 SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "COLORADO SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND EMPLOYMENT ACT".

26-2-902. Legislative declaration. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS THAT ENCOURAGING AND ASSISTING APPLICANTS FOR THE OLD AGE PENSION PROGRAM TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IS BENEFICIAL TO THOSE PERSONS AND TO THE STATE. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS PART 9 IS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROJECT IN AN URBAN SETTING AND A RURAL SETTING TO TEST A BLOCK GRANT CONCEPT THAT WOULD ALLOW THE PARTICIPATING COUNTIES SOME FLEXIBILITY TO BE INNOVATIVE IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR OLDER PERSONS, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON ASSISTING DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS.

26-2-903. Employment and self-sufficiency pilot program - creation - block grants. (1) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN

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

EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PILOT PROJECT, REFERRED TO IN THIS PART 9 AS THE "PILOT PROJECT", FOR PERSONS APPLYING FOR THE OLD AGE PENSION PROGRAM. THROUGH A COMPETITIVE PROCESS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT ONE URBAN COUNTY AND ONE RURAL COUNTY OR GROUP OF RURAL COUNTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO DEMONSTRATION SITES AS PART OF THE PILOT PROJECT. COUNTY DEPARTMENTS DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROJECT OR ANOTHER AGENCY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND A PRIVATE OR PUBLIC AGENCY OR ENTITY THAT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PURSUANT TO CONTRACT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL EVALUATE THE PROPOSALS AND SELECT TWO THAT PRESENT THE BEST PLANS FOR PLACING OLD AGE PENSION CLIENTS IN JOBS. AFTER SELECTION OF THE TWO DEMONSTRATION SITES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR EACH DEMONSTRATION SITE WITH THE AGENCY OR ENTITY THAT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, REFERRED TO IN THIS PART 9 AS THE "EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER". AS PART OF THE CONTRACT, THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER SHALL DETERMINE HOW BEST TO APPLY AND ALLOCATE AVAILABLE GRANT MONEYS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CLIENTS REFERRED TO IT FOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

(2) PROPOSALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROJECT SHALL IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING:

(a) THE ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES THAT ARE COLLABORATING ON THE PROPOSAL;

(b) THE PRIVATE OR PUBLIC AGENCY OR ENTITY THAT WILL BE AN EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER PURSUANT TO CONTRACT TO THOSE CLIENTS REFERRED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SERVICES;

(c) THE TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES THAT WOULD BE OFFERED BY THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER TO CLIENTS, SUCH AS:

(I) EMPLOYMENT ASSESSMENTS;

(II) THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EMPLOYABILITY PLAN FOR THOSE CLIENTS WITH EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL;

(III) TRAINING, INCLUDING SKILL AND JOB READINESS TRAINING, APPLICATION PROCESSES, AND INTERVIEWING SKILLS;

(IV) JOB COUNSELING;

(V) REFERRAL TO RESOURCES FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND AIDES, SUCH AS EYEGASSES, HEARING AIDS, DENTAL WORK, AND TRANSPORTATION;

(VI) JOB REFERRAL AND JOB PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE;

(VII) JOB FOLLOW-UP FUNCTIONS TO MONITOR THE SUCCESS OF JOB PLACEMENTS;

(VIII) COLLECTION OF DATA;

(d) HOW THE PROPOSAL WILL ASSIST DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS WITHIN THE POPULATION OF OLD AGE PENSION CLIENTS TO SEEK AND OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT;

(e) HOW THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT, THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVIDER, AND THE OTHER ENTITIES COLLABORATING ON THE PILOT PROJECT PROPOSE TO EVALUATE THE PROJECT'S SUCCESS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO AN EXTERNAL REVIEW BY AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY OR CONTRACTING WITH A PRIVATE ENTITY FOR AN EVALUATION.

(3) THE PILOT PROJECT SHALL COMMENCE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1999, AND OPERATE IN EACH DEMONSTRATION SITE FOR THREE FULL YEARS. THOSE COUNTIES THAT ARE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROJECT WILL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL BLOCK GRANT TO PAY FOR THE CONTRACT EXPENSES.

(4) REFERRAL OF AN APPLICANT FOR THE OLD AGE PENSION PROGRAM TO THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVIDER SHALL NOT AFFECT THE APPLICANT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.

26-2-904. County responsibilities. COUNTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PILOT PROJECT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING ALL APPLICANTS FOR THE OLD AGE PENSION PROGRAM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING EMPLOYMENT AND MAKING THEM AWARE OF AN OPTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PILOT PROJECT. ALL APPLICANTS WHO EXPRESS INTEREST IN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT SHALL BE REFERRED BY THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PROVIDER FOR AN EMPLOYMENT ASSESSMENT.

26-2-905. Repeal. THIS PART 9 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003.

SECTION 2. Appropriation. In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the old age pension fund not otherwise appropriated, to the department of human services, office of information technology services, for the client-oriented information network, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998, the sum of twelve thousand seven hundred dollars (\$12,700), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the implementation of this act.

SECTION 3. Future appropriations. It is the intent of the general assembly that this act be implemented in the future within existing FTE allocations and that no separate appropriations of state moneys for FTE's will be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 4. 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 27, 1998