

(3) IS NOT GAINFULLY EMPLOYED;

(4) HAS HAD, OR WOULD HAVE, DIFFICULTY IN SECURING EMPLOYMENT; AND

(5) HAS DEPENDED ON:

(I) THE INCOME OF A FAMILY MEMBER AND HAS LOST THAT INCOME AS THE RESULT OF SEPARATION, DIVORCE, OR THE DEATH OR DISABILITY OF THAT FAMILY MEMBER; OR

(II) GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AS THE PARENT OF A DEPENDENT CHILD AND IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR THAT ASSISTANCE.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former Article 88A, § 91.

4-602. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF INTENT.

(A) FINDINGS.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) HOMEMAKERS HAVE BEEN AN INSUFFICIENTLY RECOGNIZED SECTOR OF THE WORK FORCE WHO MAKE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE; AND

(2) THERE IS AN EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN THIS STATE WHO:

(I) HAVE FULFILLED A ROLE AS HOMEMAKER;

(II) IN THEIR MIDDLE YEARS, BECAUSE OF SEPARATION, DIVORCE, OR THE DEATH OR DISABILITY OF A FAMILY MEMBER DEPENDED ON FOR SUPPORT, ARE:

A. DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS; AND

B. WITHOUT INCOME OR WITH SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED INCOME;

(III) VERY OFTEN ARE INELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, INSURANCE BENEFITS, AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS;

(IV) HAVE THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF ANY SECTOR OF THE WORK FORCE;

(V) FACE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT BECAUSE OF AGE AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY RECENT EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE; AND

(VI) OFTEN HAVE LOST RIGHTS AS BENEFICIARIES UNDER EMPLOYERS' PENSION AND HEALTH PLANS AND OTHER INSURANCE PLANS; AND