

ASSEMBLY, No. 205

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywomen WEINBERG and TURNER

1 AN ACT concerning the provision of counseling and child care services
2 to teenage parents.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a pilot
8 program in three counties whereby the Division of Youth and Family
9 Services shall enter into a contract with a community-based
10 organization for the purpose of providing counseling and child care
11 services to teenage parents who are attending school on a regular
12 basis.

13 b. The pilot program shall be established in three counties, one
14 each in the northern, central and southern regions of the State. The
15 commissioner shall monitor and evaluate the program during the first
16 year after its establishment and determine whether the use of
17 community-based organizations to provide counseling and child care
18 services to teenage parents should be expanded throughout the State.

19 c. The commissioner shall develop standards concerning the
20 qualifications and responsibilities of the community-based
21 organizations that may enter into contracts with the division, the
22 administration of the pilot program, and the provision of services
23 including client eligibility and alternative funding sources.

24
25 2. The commissioner shall report to the Governor and the
26 Legislature no later than one year after the effective date of this act on
27 the activities of the program and present recommendations for
28 expanding the program Statewide, as appropriate.

29
30 3. In accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act"
31 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human
32 Services shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate
33 the purposes of this act.

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately and expire one year after
2 enactment.

3

4

5

STATEMENT

6

7 This bill requires that the Commissioner of Human Services
8 establish a pilot program in three counties whereby the Division of
9 Youth and Family Services (DYFS) would enter into contracts with
10 community-based organizations to provide counseling and child care
11 services to teenage parents. The bill requires the pilot program to be
12 established in three counties located in the northern, central and
13 southern regions of the State and the Commissioner of Human
14 Services would be required to monitor and evaluate the program
15 during the first year after its establishment. The bill also requires that
16 the Department of Human Services adopt standards concerning the
17 qualifications and responsibilities of the community-based
18 organizations allowed to enter into contracts with DYFS, the
19 administration of the pilot program and the provision of services
20 including client eligibility and alternate funding sources.

21

22

23

24

25 Establishes a pilot program for teenage parents in DYFS.