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[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 159

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senators BRYANT, BASSANO, Matheussen and Connors

1 AN ACT concerning eligibility for benefits under the program of aid to
2 families with dependent children and supplementing chapter 10 of
3 Title 44 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that every child deserves to
9 know who both parents are and to receive financial support and
10 nurturing from both parents; that the State has demonstrated its
11 commitment to the support and development of children and their
12 families who are receiving public assistance by establishing the Family
13 Development Initiative pursuant to the "Family Development Act,"
14 P.L.1991, c.523 (C.44:10-19 et seq.); and that further reform of the
15 welfare system is necessary to ensure paternity establishment for
16 children, and the right of each child to receive the support necessary
17 to grow and develop to that child's maximum potential.

18

19 2. a. An applicant for, or recipient of benefits under, the program
20 of aid to families with dependent children, or AFDC, established
21 pursuant to P.L.1959, c.86 (C.44:10-1 et seq.) shall be required to
22 furnish the following information as a condition of that person's and
23 that person's dependent child's eligibility for AFDC benefits: the name
24 of the dependent child's other parent, and that parent's social security
25 number¹, if known,¹ or the last known address of that parent's place of
26 employment, and any additional information that may assist in
27 identifying or locating the other parent as determined by the
28 Commissioner of Human Services.

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SHU committee amendments adopted May 2, 1996.

1 b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall exempt from the
2 provisions of subsection a. of this section an AFDC applicant or
3 recipient who, in the determination of the commissioner, is unable to
4 supply the required information, or whom the commissioner
5 determines has an acceptable reason for refusing to supply the
6 information, including, but not limited to, evidence that the other
7 parent: poses a threat to the physical safety of the applicant or
8 recipient and the applicant's or recipient's dependent child; or has
9 physically or sexually abused the applicant or recipient, or the
10 applicant's or recipient's dependent child, or poses a risk of doing so.

11 c. A recipient of AFDC benefits shall be requested to furnish the
12 information required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, if the
13 recipient has not already done so, at the time of that person's
14 redetermination of eligibility for benefits.

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16 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of the "Family Development
17 Act," P.L.1991, c.523 (C.44:10-19 et seq.) to the contrary, an
18 applicant for, or recipient of, aid to families with dependent children
19 benefits who would be eligible to receive those benefits except for the
20 provisions of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
21 Legislature as this bill), shall be eligible to receive financial assistance
22 for day care services for the applicant's or recipient's child on the same
23 basis as participants in the Family Development Initiative established
24 pursuant to that act, in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of
25 P.L.1991, c.523 (C.44:10-25) and the rules and regulations adopted
26 by the Commissioner of Human Services to effectuate those
27 provisions.

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29 4. The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant to the
30 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
31 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
32 this act.

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34 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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39 Conditions a parent's eligibility for AFDC benefits on that person's
40 identifying the other parent, unless unable to do so.