

HB 1241

2007

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Alzheimer's State Plan Task
3 Force; establishing the Florida Alzheimer's State Plan
4 Task Force within the Department of Elderly Affairs;
5 providing for membership; requiring the Department of
6 Elderly Affairs to provide administrative support;
7 requiring the task force to assess and make
8 recommendations on specified issues; requiring the task
9 force to gather feedback from the general public;
10 requiring the task force to submit a report to the
11 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
12 the House of Representatives; providing for termination of
13 the task force; providing an effective date.

14
15 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive
16 disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other
17 cognitive functions and eventually death, and

18 WHEREAS, because Alzheimer's disease is accompanied by
19 memory loss, poor judgment, changes in personality and behavior,
20 and a tendency to wander, persons with this disease are at an
21 increased risk for accidental injury, getting lost, abuse,
22 neglect, and exploitation, and

23 WHEREAS, with 1 in 10 people in the country over the age of
24 65 and almost one in every two people in the country over the
25 age of 85 having Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia
26 disorder, the number of Floridians with Alzheimer's disease and
27 related dementia disorders has risen dramatically over the past
28 10 years, and today over 450,000 people in Florida are affected,

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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29 | and

30 | WHEREAS, the baby boom generation is entering the age of
31 | greatest risk for Alzheimer's disease and by 2025 the number of
32 | the baby boom generation population in Florida is expected to
33 | double, and

34 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on
35 | loving family members, with an estimated 1 in 4 acting as
36 | caregivers for each individual with the disease, and

37 | WHEREAS, caregivers for persons with Alzheimer's disease
38 | watch closely the deleterious effects of the disease and often
39 | suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than
40 | caregivers of people with other illnesses, and

41 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is considered to be early
42 | onset if a person is younger than the age of 65 when symptoms
43 | first appear, and early onset Alzheimer's disease can strike
44 | persons as early as their 30s, 40s, and 50s, with new data
45 | showing there may be half a million Americans under the age of
46 | 65 who have dementia or cognitive impairment at a level of
47 | severity consistent with dementia, and

48 | WHEREAS, the state needs to assess the current and future
49 | impact of Alzheimer's disease on Floridians and state health
50 | care systems, programs, and services to ensure an integrated,
51 | comprehensive, coordinated, and current strategy to address the
52 | needs of this growing segment of Florida's population, and

53 | WHEREAS, currently, state programs, resources, information,
54 | and services serving this population are fragmented, NOW,

55 | THEREFORE,

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57 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

58

59 Section 1. There is established the Florida Alzheimer's
60 State Plan Task Force within the Department of Elderly Affairs.
61 The Florida Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force shall consist of
62 19 volunteer members, including, but not limited to, the chair
63 of the House of Representatives Healthcare Council, the chair of
64 the House of Representatives Committee on Healthy Seniors, the
65 chair of the Senate Social Responsibility Policy and Calendar
66 Committee, and the chair of the Senate Children, Families, and
67 Elder Affairs Committee; at least one person with Alzheimer's
68 disease; one caregiver of a person with Alzheimer's disease; a
69 representative of the nursing facility industry, a
70 representative of the assisted living industry, a representative
71 of the adult day services industry, a representative of the
72 health care provider industry, and a representative of the
73 Alzheimer's Association; a representative of the Alzheimer's
74 Disease Advisory Committee; and the secretary of the Department
75 of Elderly Affairs or a designee, the Director of the Agency for
76 Health Care Administration or a designee, the secretary of the
77 Department of Children and Families or a designee, and the
78 secretary of Department of Health or a designee.

79 Section 2. The Department of Elderly Affairs shall convene
80 and provide necessary administrative support to the Florida
81 Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force.

82 Section 3. The Florida Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force
83 is directed to assess the current and future impact of
84 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia disorders on state

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85 residents; examine the existing industries, services, and
86 resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's
87 disease or related dementia disorders and their families and
88 caregivers; and develop recommendations and strategies to
89 mobilize a state response to this public health crisis.

90 Section 4. The Florida Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force
91 shall include an examination of the following in its assessment
92 and recommendations:

93 (1) Trends and needs of state population with Alzheimer's
94 disease, including the state population with Alzheimer's-related
95 dementia disorders, including, but not limited to:

96 (a) The state's role in long-term care, family caregiver
97 support, and assistance to persons with early stage and early
98 onset of Alzheimer's disease or related dementia disorders.

99 (b) The state's policy regarding persons with Alzheimer's
100 disease or related dementia disorders.

101 (2) Existing services, resources, and capacity, including,
102 but not limited to, the:

103 (a) Type, cost, and availability of services to persons
104 with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia disorders.

105 (b) Quality care measures for residential care facilities.

106 (c) Capacity of public safety and law enforcement to
107 respond to persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia
108 disorders.

109 (d) Availability of home-based and community-based
110 resources for persons with Alzheimer's disease or related
111 dementia disorders and respite care to assist families.

112 (e) Inventory of long-term care dementia care units.

113 (f) Adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-psychiatric
 114 units for persons with behavior disorders associated with
 115 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia disorders.

116 (g) Assisted-living residential options for persons with
 117 Alzheimer's disease or related dementia disorders.

118 (3) Needed state policies or responses, including, but not
 119 limited to, directions for the provision of clear and
 120 coordinated services and support to persons and families living
 121 with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia disorders and
 122 strategies to address identified gaps in services.

123 Section 5. The Florida Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force
 124 is directed to hold public meetings and utilize technological
 125 means, such as webcasts, to gather feedback on the
 126 recommendations from persons and families affected by
 127 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia disorders and the
 128 general public.

129 Section 6. The Florida Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force
 130 is directed to submit a report of its findings and date-specific
 131 recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
 132 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the form of a
 133 State Alzheimer's Plan no later than January 1, 2008.

134 Section 7. The Florida State Alzheimer's Plan Task Force
 135 shall terminate upon delivery of the State Alzheimer's Plan to
 136 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
 137 the House of Representatives.

138 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.