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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Alzheimer's disease; creating s.
3 430.5025, F.S.; directing the Department of Elderly
4 Affairs to develop and implement a public education
5 program relating to screening for Alzheimer's disease;
6 providing criteria for awarding grants; providing a
7 definition; requiring grant recipients to submit an
8 evaluation of certain activities to the department;
9 authorizing the department to provide technical support;
10 requiring a report; providing an appropriation; creating
11 s. 430.5026, F.S.; requiring the department to conduct or
12 support a study on memory impairment screening; requiring
13 a report; 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, is the eighth leading cause of death in the
18 United States, and currently affects an estimated 5 million
19 Americans, with that number expected to increase to 16 million
20 by mid-century, and

21 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease strikes approximately 1 in 10
22 people over the age of 65 and nearly half of those who are age
23 85 or older, although some people develop symptoms as young as
24 age 40, and

25 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on
26 family members who are the caregivers for individuals with the
27 disease, and

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28 WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's
29 disease suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than
30 caregivers for individuals with other illnesses, and

31 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease costs United States businesses
32 more than \$60 billion annually due to lost productivity and
33 absenteeism by primary caregivers and increased insurance costs,
34 and

35 WHEREAS, recent advancements in scientific research have
36 demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for persons
37 with Alzheimer's disease and the benefits of early access to
38 counseling and other support services for their caregivers, and

39 WHEREAS, research shows that several medications have been
40 developed that can reduce the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease,
41 that persons begin to benefit most when these medications are
42 taken in the early stages of a memory disorder, and that this
43 intervention may extend the period of time during which patients
44 can be cared for at home, thereby significantly reducing the
45 costs of institutional care, and

46 WHEREAS, with early diagnosis, patients can participate in
47 decisions regarding their care and their families can take
48 advantage of support services that can reduce caregiver
49 depression and related health problems, and

50 WHEREAS, in direct response to research breakthroughs,
51 National Memory Screening Day was established as a collaborative
52 effort by organizations and health care professionals across the
53 country to promote awareness and early detection of memory
54 impairments, and

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55 WHEREAS, on National Memory Screening Day, which is held on
56 the third Tuesday of November in recognition of National
57 Alzheimer's Disease Month, health care professionals administer
58 free memory screenings at hundreds of sites throughout the
59 United States, and

60 WHEREAS, memory screening is used as an indicator of
61 whether a person might benefit from more extensive testing to
62 determine whether a memory or cognitive impairment exists and
63 identifies persons who may benefit from medical attention but is
64 not used to diagnose any illness and in no way replaces
65 examination by a qualified physician, NOW, THEREFORE,

66

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

68

69 Section 1. Section 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is created
70 to read:

71 430.5025 Memory impairment screening; grants.--

72 (1) The Department of Elderly Affairs shall develop and
73 implement a public education program relating to screening for
74 memory impairment and the importance of early diagnosis and
75 treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

76 (2) The department may award grants to qualifying entities
77 to support the development, expansion, or operation of programs
78 that provide:

79 (a) Information and education on the importance of memory
80 screening for early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's
81 disease and related disorders.

82 (b) Screenings for memory impairment.

83 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "qualifying
84 entities" means public and nonprofit private entities that
85 provide services and care to individuals with Alzheimer's
86 disease and related disorders and their caregivers and families.

87 (4) When awarding grants under this section, the
88 department shall give preference to applicants that:

89 (a) Have demonstrated experience in promoting public
90 education and awareness of the importance of memory screening or
91 providing memory screening services.

92 (b) Have established arrangements with health care
93 providers and other organizations to provide screenings for
94 memory impairment in a manner that is convenient to individuals
95 in the communities served by the applicants.

96 (c) Provide matching funds.

97 (5) A qualifying entity that receives a grant under this
98 section shall submit to the department an evaluation that
99 describes activities carried out with funds received under this
100 section, the long-term effectiveness of such activities in
101 promoting early detection of memory impairment, and such other
102 information as the department may require.

103 (6) The department may set aside an amount not to exceed
104 15 percent of the total amount appropriated for the fiscal year
105 under subsection (9) to provide grantees with technical support
106 in the development, implementation, and evaluation of memory
107 screening programs.

108 (7) A grant may be awarded under subsection (2) only if an
109 application for the grant is submitted to the department and the
110 application is in such form, is made in such manner, and

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111 contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the
112 department determines to be necessary to carry out the purposes
113 of this section.

114 (8) The department shall annually submit to the President
115 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a
116 report on the activities carried out under this section,
117 including provisions describing the extent to which the
118 activities have affected the rate of screening for memory
119 impairment and have improved outcomes for patients and
120 caregivers.

121 (9) The sum of \$500,000 is appropriated from the General
122 Revenue Fund to the Department of Elderly Affairs for the 2007-
123 2008 fiscal year to implement the provisions of this section.

124 Section 2. Section 430.5026, Florida Statutes, is created
125 to read:

126 430.5026 Study on screening for memory impairment.--

127 (1) The Department of Elderly Affairs shall conduct or
128 provide support for a study on screening for memory impairment.
129 The study shall analyze scientific evidence regarding techniques
130 for memory screening, assess the availability of memory
131 screening on a nationwide basis, and identify strategies to
132 expand screening services through public-private partnerships to
133 improve outcomes for patients and caregivers.

134 (2) The department shall, not later than 12 months after
135 this section becomes law, prepare and submit to the relevant
136 substantive committees of the Senate and the House of
137 Representatives a report that describes the results of the study
138 conducted under this section. The report shall include specific

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139 | recommendations to increase awareness of the importance of early
140 | detection of memory impairment and to improve access to memory
141 | screening services nationwide by supporting and expanding
142 | existing screening efforts in the private sector.

143 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.