

By Senator Wise

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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; creating s. 430.5026, F.S.; requiring  
11 the department to conduct or support a study on memory-  
12 impairment screening; requiring a report; providing an  
13 effective date.

14  
15 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive disorder  
16 of the brain that results in loss of memory and other cognitive  
17 functions, is the eighth leading cause of death in the United  
18 States, and currently affects an estimated 5 million Americans,  
19 with that number expected to increase to 16 million by mid-  
20 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 85  
23 or older, although some people develop symptoms as young as age  
24 40, and

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

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

55 WHEREAS, on National Memory Screening Day, which is held on  
56 the third Tuesday of November in recognition of National

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57 Alzheimer's Disease Month, health care professionals administer  
58 free memory screenings at hundreds of sites throughout the United  
59 States, and

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

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85 provide services and care to individuals who have Alzheimer's  
86 disease or related disorders and their caregivers and families.

87 (4) When awarding grants under this section, the department  
88 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 15  
104 percent of the total amount appropriated for the fiscal year to  
105 provide grantees with technical support in the development,  
106 implementation, and evaluation of memory-screening programs.

107 (7) A grant may be awarded under subsection (2) only if an  
108 application for the grant is submitted to the department and the  
109 application is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains  
110 such agreements, assurances, and information as the department  
111 determines to be necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
112 section.

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

120       Section 2. Section 430.5026, Florida Statutes, is created  
121 to read:

122       430.5026 Study on screening for memory impairment.--

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

130       (2) The department shall, not later than 12 months after  
131 this section becomes law, prepare and submit to the relevant  
132 substantive committees of the Senate and the House of  
133 Representatives a report that describes the results of the study  
134 conducted under this section. The report shall include specific  
135 recommendations to increase awareness of the importance of early  
136 detection of memory impairment and to improve access to memory-  
137 screening services nationwide by supporting and expanding  
138 existing screening efforts in the private sector.

139       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.