

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

BILL: SM 2662

INTRODUCER: Senator Peaden

SUBJECT: Alzheimer's Disease Research/Federal Funding

DATE: March 23, 2008

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Ray	Jameson	CF	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Senate Memorial 2662 urges the United States Congress to increase federal funding for Alzheimer's disease research.

The memorial requires that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, and the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and members of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

II. Present Situation:

Alzheimer's Disease

Dementia describes a group of symptoms related to a brain disorder that seriously affects a person's ability to carry out basic daily functions. One of the most common forms of dementia among older people is Alzheimer's disease. It is still unknown what causes Alzheimer's disease and there is no cure.¹

Alzheimer's disease affected approximately 5.1 million persons in the United States as of 2007.² According to Dr. Huntington Potter, CEO and Scientific Director of the Johnnie B. Byrd Sr. Alzheimer's Center & Research Institute, approximately 500,000 Floridians currently suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Ninety-six percent of persons with Alzheimer's disease are 65 years of age or older.³ The mortality rate for persons with Alzheimer's disease has increased over the last few

¹ National Institute on Aging, "Alzheimer's Disease: Fact Sheet." Found at: <http://www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Publications/adfact.htm> (last visited on March 20, 2008).

² Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures 2007, (on file with the committee).

³ *Id.*

years. Alzheimer's disease is now the seventh leading cause of death in the United States causing 65,965 deaths in 2004.⁴

Persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias tend to use more medical services and have higher overall medical expenses than persons without these conditions. In 2000, Medicare spent nearly three times as much, on average, for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias compared to beneficiaries without dementia. The drivers behind the cost differentials include more hospital stays and physician visits. Additionally, approximately 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias also receive services financed by Medicaid, especially long-term care services. Among nursing home patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, 51 percent used Medicaid to pay for their nursing home care in 2000.⁵

Because of the large number of persons at risk for Alzheimer's disease in Florida, the Legislature created the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI) in 1985 to provide a continuum of services to meet the changing needs of individual's with Alzheimer's disease and similar memory disorders and their families.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The memorial urges the Congress of the United States to increase federal funding for Alzheimer's disease research by \$360 million during Fiscal Year 2008-09. The bill provides that copies of the resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Vital Statistics Report, "Deaths: Final Data for 2004."

⁵ Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures 2007, (on file with the committee).

⁶ Department of Elder Affairs website, <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/english/alzheimers.html> (last visited March 20, 2008).

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The memorial may result in an increase in Alzheimer's disease research funding in Fiscal Year 2008-09.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.