

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

123 430.5026 Study on screening for memory impairment.--

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

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

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138 | screening services nationwide by supporting and expanding  
139 | existing screening efforts in the private sector.

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