

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 an annual report to the Legislature; requiring  
11          the department to conduct or support a study on memory-  
12          impairment screening; requiring a report to the  
13          Legislature; providing an effective date.

14  
15          WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a slow, progressive disorder  
16          of the brain which 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  
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 having the  
27          disease, and

28          WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals who have Alzheimer's

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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 which 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 during which patients can be  
44 | cared for at home, thereby significantly reducing the costs of  
45 | 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

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) As used in this section, the term "qualifying  
 84 entities" means public and nonprofit private entities that

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  
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 any other  
102 information that the department requires.

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 to 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 the form, is made in the manner, and contains  
110 the agreements, assurances, and information that the department  
111 determines are 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. Study on screening for memory impairment.--

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

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

137       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.