

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; providing
11 that implementation of the memory impairment screening
12 grant program is not contingent on an appropriation;
13 requiring the department to conduct or support a study on
14 memory impairment screening; requiring a report to the
15 Legislature; providing an effective date.

16
17 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a slow, progressive disorder
18 of the brain which results in loss of memory and other cognitive
19 functions, is the eighth leading cause of death in the United
20 States, and currently affects an estimated 5 million Americans,
21 with that number expected to increase to 16 million by mid-
22 century, and

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

27 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on
28 family members who are the caregivers for individuals who have

CS/HB 589

2009

29 | the disease, and

30 | WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals who have Alzheimer's
31 | disease suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than
32 | caregivers for individuals who have other illnesses, and

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

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

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

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

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

CS/HB 589

2009

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

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

68

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

70

71 Section 1. Section 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is created
72 to read:

73 430.5025 Memory impairment screening; grant program.--

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

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

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

84 (b) Screenings for memory impairment.

85 (3) As used in this section, the term "qualifying
86 entities" means public and nonprofit private entities that
87 provide services and care to individuals who have Alzheimer's
88 disease or related disorders and their caregivers and families.

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

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

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

98 (c) Provide matching funds.

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

105 (6) The department may set aside an amount not to exceed
106 15 percent of the total amount appropriated to the memory
107 impairment screening grant program for the fiscal year to
108 provide grantees with technical support in the development,
109 implementation, and evaluation of memory impairment screening
110 programs.

111 (7) A grant may be awarded under subsection (2) only if an
112 application for the grant is submitted to the department and the

113 application is in the form, is made in the manner, and contains
114 the agreements, assurances, and information that the department
115 determines are necessary to carry out the purposes of this
116 section.

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

124 (9) Implementation of the memory impairment screening
125 grant program is not contingent on appropriation of state funds.

126 Section 2. 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 memory screening services through public-private
133 partnerships to 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
139 recommendations to increase awareness of the importance of early
140 detection of memory impairment and to improve access to memory

CS/HB 589

2009

141 screening services nationwide by supporting and expanding

142 existing memory screening efforts in the private sector.

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