

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 for implementation of the public  
14      education program to operate within existing resources of  
15      the department; providing that implementation of the  
16      memory impairment screening grant program is contingent  
17      upon an appropriation of state funds or the availability  
18      of private resources; providing for implementation of the  
19      screening study on memory impairment to operate within  
20      existing resources of the department; providing an  
21      effective date.

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

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

33 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on  
34 family members who are the caregivers for individuals who have  
35 the disease, and

36 WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals who have Alzheimer's  
37 disease suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than  
38 caregivers for individuals who have other illnesses, and

39 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease costs United States businesses  
40 more than \$60 billion annually due to lost productivity and  
41 absenteeism by primary caregivers and increased insurance costs,  
42 and

43 WHEREAS, recent advancements in scientific research have  
44 demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for persons  
45 who have Alzheimer's disease and the benefits of early access to  
46 counseling and other support services for their caregivers, and

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

54 WHEREAS, with early diagnosis, patients can participate in  
55 decisions regarding their care and their families can take  
56 advantage of support services that can reduce caregiver

CS/CS/HB 589

2009

57 | depression and related health problems, and

58 |       WHEREAS, in direct response to research breakthroughs,  
59 | National Memory Screening Day was established as a collaborative  
60 | effort by organizations and health care professionals across the  
61 | country to promote awareness and early detection of memory  
62 | impairment, and

63 |       WHEREAS, on National Memory Screening Day, which is held on  
64 | the third Tuesday of November in recognition of National  
65 | Alzheimer's Disease Month, health care professionals administer  
66 | free memory screenings at hundreds of sites throughout the  
67 | United States, and

68 |       WHEREAS, memory screening is used as an indicator of  
69 | whether a person might benefit from more extensive testing to  
70 | determine whether a memory or cognitive impairment exists and  
71 | identifies persons who may benefit from medical attention but is  
72 | not used to diagnose any illness and in no way replaces  
73 | examination by a qualified physician, NOW, THEREFORE,

74 |

75 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

76 |

77 |       Section 1. Section 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is created  
78 | to read:

79 |       430.5025 Memory impairment screening; grant program.--

80 |       (1) The Department of Elderly Affairs shall develop and  
81 | implement a public education program relating to screening for  
82 | memory impairment and the importance of early diagnosis and  
83 | treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

84 |       (2) The department may award grants to qualifying entities

85 to support the development, expansion, or operation of programs  
86 that provide:

87 (a) Information and education on the importance of memory  
88 screening for early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's  
89 disease and related disorders.

90 (b) Screenings for memory impairment.

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

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

97 (a) Have demonstrated experience in promoting public  
98 education and awareness of the importance of memory screening or  
99 providing memory screening services.

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

104 (c) Provide matching funds.

105 (5) A qualifying entity that receives a grant under this  
106 section shall submit to the department an evaluation that  
107 describes activities carried out with funds received under this  
108 section, the long-term effectiveness of such activities in  
109 promoting early detection of memory impairment, and any other  
110 information that the department requires.

111 (6) The department may set aside an amount not to exceed  
112 15 percent of the total amount appropriated to the memory

113 impairment screening grant program for the fiscal year to  
114 provide grantees with technical support in the development,  
115 implementation, and evaluation of memory impairment screening  
116 programs.

117 (7) A grant may be awarded under subsection (2) only if an  
118 application for the grant is submitted to the department and the  
119 application is in the form, is made in the manner, and contains  
120 the agreements, assurances, and information that the department  
121 determines are necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
122 section.

123 (8) The department shall annually submit to the President  
124 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a  
125 report on the activities carried out under this section,  
126 including provisions describing the extent to which the  
127 activities have affected the rate of screening for memory  
128 impairment and have improved outcomes for patients and  
129 caregivers.

130 Section 2. Study on screening for memory impairment.--

131 (1) The Department of Elderly Affairs shall conduct or  
132 provide support for a study on screening for memory impairment.  
133 The study shall analyze scientific evidence regarding techniques  
134 for memory screening, assess the availability of memory  
135 screening on a nationwide basis, and identify strategies to  
136 expand memory screening services through public-private  
137 partnerships to improve outcomes for patients and caregivers.

138 (2) The department shall, not later than 12 months after  
139 this section becomes law, prepare and submit to the relevant  
140 substantive committees of the Senate and the House of

CS/CS/HB 589

2009

141 Representatives a report that describes the results of the study  
142 conducted under this section. The report shall include specific  
143 recommendations to increase awareness of the importance of early  
144 detection of memory impairment and to improve access to memory  
145 screening services nationwide by supporting and expanding  
146 existing memory screening efforts in the private sector.

147 Section 3. Implementation.--

148 (1) Implementation of the public education program created  
149 under s. 430.5025, Florida Statutes, shall operate within  
150 existing resources of the Department of Elderly Affairs.

151 (2) Implementation of the memory impairment screening  
152 grant program created under s. 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is  
153 contingent upon appropriation of state funds or the availability  
154 of private resources.

155 (3) Implementation of the study on screening for memory  
156 impairment created under section 2 shall operate within existing  
157 resources of the Department of Elderly Affairs.

158 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.