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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; amending s.
21 400.1755, F.S.; specifying the types of facilities where
22 an employee or direct caregiver of an assisted living
23 facility may begin employment without repeating certain
24 training requirements; amending s. 400.6045, F.S.;
25 requiring direct caregivers to comply with certain
26 continuing education requirements; amending s. 429.178,
27 F.S.; specifying the types of facilities where an employee
28 or direct caregiver of an assisted living facility may

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29 | begin employment without repeating certain training
30 | requirements; providing an effective date.

31

32 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive
33 | disorder of the brain which results in loss of memory and other
34 | cognitive functions, is the eighth leading cause of death in the
35 | United States, and currently affects an estimated 5 million
36 | Americans, with that number expected to increase to 16 million
37 | by mid-century, and

38 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease strikes approximately 1 in 10
39 | people over the age of 65 and nearly half of those who are age
40 | 85 or older, although some people develop symptoms as young as
41 | age 40, and

42 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on
43 | family members who are the caregivers for individuals having the
44 | disease, and

45 | WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals who have Alzheimer's
46 | disease suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than
47 | caregivers for individuals who have other illnesses, and

48 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease costs United States businesses
49 | more than \$60 billion annually due to lost productivity and
50 | absenteeism by primary caregivers and increased insurance costs,
51 | and

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

56 | WHEREAS, research shows that several medications have been

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57 developed which can reduce the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease,
58 that persons begin to benefit most when these medications are
59 taken in the early stages of a memory disorder, and that this
60 intervention may extend the period during which patients can be
61 cared for at home, thereby significantly reducing the costs of
62 institutional care, and

63 WHEREAS, with early diagnosis, patients can participate in
64 decisions regarding their care and their families can take
65 advantage of support services that can reduce caregiver
66 depression and related health problems, and

67 WHEREAS, in direct response to research breakthroughs,
68 National Memory Screening Day was established as a collaborative
69 effort by organizations and health care professionals across the
70 country to promote awareness and early detection of memory
71 impairments, and

72 WHEREAS, on National Memory Screening Day, which is held on
73 the third Tuesday of November in recognition of National
74 Alzheimer's Disease Month, health care professionals administer
75 free memory screenings at hundreds of sites throughout the
76 United States, and

77 WHEREAS, memory screening is used as an indicator of
78 whether a person might benefit from more extensive testing to
79 determine whether a memory or cognitive impairment exists and
80 identifies persons who may benefit from medical attention, but
81 is not used to diagnose any illness and in no way replaces
82 examination by a qualified physician, NOW, THEREFORE,

83

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

85
86 Section 1. Section 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is created
87 to read:

88 430.5025 Memory-impairment screening; grants.-

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

93 (2) The department may award grants to qualifying entities
94 to support the development, expansion, or operation of programs
95 that provide:

96 (a) Information and education on the importance of memory
97 screening for early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's
98 disease and related disorders.

99 (b) Screenings for memory impairment.

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

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

106 (a) Have demonstrated experience in promoting public
107 education and awareness of the importance of memory screening or
108 providing memory-screening services.

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

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113 (c) Provide matching funds.

114 (5) A qualifying entity that receives a grant under this
115 section shall submit to the department an evaluation that
116 describes activities carried out with funds received under this
117 section, the long-term effectiveness of such activities in
118 promoting early detection of memory impairment, and any other
119 information that the department requires.

120 (6) The department may set aside an amount not to exceed
121 15 percent of the total amount appropriated to the memory-
122 impairment screening grant program for the fiscal year to
123 provide grantees with technical support in the development,
124 implementation, and evaluation of memory-impairment screening
125 programs.

126 (7) A grant may be awarded under subsection (2) only if an
127 application for the grant is submitted to the department and the
128 application is in the form, is made in the manner, and contains
129 the agreements, assurances, and information that the department
130 determines are necessary to carry out the purposes of this
131 section.

132 (8) The department shall annually submit to the President
133 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a
134 report on the activities carried out under this section,
135 including provisions describing the extent to which the
136 activities have affected the rate of screening for memory
137 impairment and have improved outcomes for patients and
138 caregivers.

139 Section 2. Study on screening for memory impairment.—

140 (1) The Department of Elderly Affairs shall conduct or

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141 provide support for a study on screening for memory impairment.
142 The study shall analyze scientific evidence regarding techniques
143 for memory screening, assess the availability of memory
144 screening on a nationwide basis, and identify strategies to
145 expand memory-screening services through public-private
146 partnerships to improve outcomes for patients and caregivers.

147 (2) The department shall, by July 1, 2011, prepare and
148 submit to the relevant substantive committees of the Senate and
149 the House of Representatives a report that describes the results
150 of the study conducted under this section. The report shall
151 include specific recommendations to increase awareness of the
152 importance of early detection of memory impairment and to
153 improve access to memory-screening services nationwide by
154 supporting and expanding existing memory-screening efforts in
155 the private sector.

156 Section 3. Implementation.-

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

160 (2) Implementation of the memory-impairment screening
161 grant program created under s. 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is
162 contingent upon appropriation of state funds or the availability
163 of private resources.

164 (3) Implementation of the study on screening for memory
165 impairment created under section 2 of this act shall operate
166 within existing resources of the Department of Elderly Affairs.

167 Section 4. Subsection (6) of section 400.1755, Florida
168 Statutes, is amended to read:

169 400.1755 Care for persons with Alzheimer's disease or
 170 related disorders.—

171 (6) Upon completing any training listed in this section,
 172 the employee or direct caregiver shall be issued a certificate
 173 that includes the name of the training provider, the topic
 174 covered, and the date and signature of the training provider.
 175 The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the
 176 identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not
 177 required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or
 178 direct caregiver changes employment to a different facility or
 179 to an assisted living facility, home health agency, adult day
 180 care center, or hospice ~~adult family care home~~. The direct
 181 caregiver must comply with other applicable continuing education
 182 requirements.

183 Section 5. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section
 184 400.6045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

185 400.6045 Patients with Alzheimer's disease or other
 186 related disorders; staff training requirements; certain
 187 disclosures.—

188 (1) A hospice licensed under this part must provide the
 189 following staff training:

190 (h) Upon completing any training described in this
 191 section, the employee or direct caregiver shall be issued a
 192 certificate that includes the name of the training provider, the
 193 topic covered, and the date and signature of the training
 194 provider. The certificate is evidence of completion of training
 195 in the identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is
 196 not required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or

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197 direct caregiver changes employment to a different hospice or to
198 a home health agency, assisted living facility, nursing home, or
199 adult day care center. The direct caregiver must comply with
200 other applicable continuing education requirements.

201 Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 429.178, Florida
202 Statutes, is amended to read:

203 429.178 Special care for persons with Alzheimer's disease
204 or other related disorders.—

205 (4) Upon completing any training listed in subsection (2),
206 the employee or direct caregiver shall be issued a certificate
207 that includes the name of the training provider, the topic
208 covered, and the date and signature of the training provider.
209 The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the
210 identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not
211 required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or
212 direct caregiver changes employment to a different assisted
213 living facility or nursing home, hospice, adult day care center,
214 or home health agency ~~facility~~. The employee or direct caregiver
215 must comply with other applicable continuing education
216 requirements.

217 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.