

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 for implementation of the public education program to
12 operate within existing resources of the department;
13 providing that implementation of the memory-impairment
14 screening grant program is contingent upon an
15 appropriation of state funds or the availability of
16 private resources; amending s. 400.1755, F.S.; specifying
17 the types of facilities where an employee or direct
18 caregiver of an assisted living facility may begin
19 employment without repeating certain training
20 requirements; amending s. 400.6045, F.S.; requiring direct
21 caregivers to comply with certain continuing education
22 requirements; amending s. 429.178, F.S.; specifying the
23 types of facilities where an employee or direct caregiver
24 of an assisted living facility may begin employment
25 without repeating certain training requirements; providing
26 an effective date.

27
28 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive

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29 | disorder of the brain which results in loss of memory and other
30 | cognitive functions, is the eighth leading cause of death in the
31 | United States, and currently affects an estimated 5 million
32 | Americans, with that number expected to increase to 16 million
33 | by mid-century, and

34 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease strikes approximately 1 in 10
35 | people over the age of 65 and nearly half of those who are age
36 | 85 or older, although some people develop symptoms as young as
37 | age 40, and

38 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on
39 | family members who are the caregivers for individuals having the
40 | disease, and

41 | WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals who have Alzheimer's
42 | disease suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than
43 | caregivers for individuals who have other illnesses, and

44 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease costs United States businesses
45 | more than \$60 billion annually due to lost productivity and
46 | absenteeism by primary caregivers and increased insurance costs,
47 | and

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

52 | WHEREAS, research shows that several medications have been
53 | developed which can reduce the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease,
54 | that persons begin to benefit most when these medications are
55 | taken in the early stages of a memory disorder, and that this
56 | intervention may extend the period during which patients can be

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57 | cared for at home, thereby significantly reducing the costs of
58 | institutional care, and

59 | WHEREAS, with early diagnosis, patients can participate in
60 | decisions regarding their care and their families can take
61 | advantage of support services that can reduce caregiver
62 | depression and related health problems, and

63 | WHEREAS, in direct response to research breakthroughs,
64 | National Memory Screening Day was established as a collaborative
65 | effort by organizations and health care professionals across the
66 | country to promote awareness and early detection of memory
67 | impairments, and

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

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

79 |
80 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

81 |
82 | Section 1. Section 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is created
83 | to read:

84 | 430.5025 Memory-impairment screening; grants.-

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

89 (2) The department may award grants to qualifying entities
90 to support the development, expansion, or operation of programs
91 that provide:

92 (a) Information and education on the importance of memory
93 screening for early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's
94 disease and related disorders.

95 (b) Screenings for memory impairment.

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

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

102 (a) Have demonstrated experience in promoting public
103 education and awareness of the importance of memory screening or
104 providing memory-screening services.

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

109 (c) Provide matching funds.

110 (5) A qualifying entity that receives a grant under this
111 section shall submit to the department an evaluation that
112 describes activities carried out with funds received under this

113 section, the long-term effectiveness of such activities in
114 promoting early detection of memory impairment, and any other
115 information that the department requires.

116 (6) The department may set aside an amount not to exceed
117 15 percent of the total amount appropriated to the memory-
118 impairment screening grant program for the fiscal year to
119 provide grantees with technical support in the development,
120 implementation, and evaluation of memory-impairment screening
121 programs.

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

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

135 Section 2. Implementation.-

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

139 (2) Implementation of the memory-impairment screening
140 grant program created under s. 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is

141 contingent upon appropriation of state funds or the availability
 142 of private resources.

143 Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 400.1755, Florida
 144 Statutes, is amended to read:

145 400.1755 Care for persons with Alzheimer's disease or
 146 related disorders.—

147 (6) Upon completing any training listed in this section,
 148 the employee or direct caregiver shall be issued a certificate
 149 that includes the name of the training provider, the topic
 150 covered, and the date and signature of the training provider.
 151 The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the
 152 identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not
 153 required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or
 154 direct caregiver changes employment to a different facility or
 155 to an assisted living facility, home health agency, adult day
 156 care center, or hospice ~~adult family-care home~~. The direct
 157 caregiver must comply with other applicable continuing education
 158 requirements.

159 Section 4. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section
 160 400.6045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

161 400.6045 Patients with Alzheimer's disease or other
 162 related disorders; staff training requirements; certain
 163 disclosures.—

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

166 (h) Upon completing any training described in this
 167 section, the employee or direct caregiver shall be issued a
 168 certificate that includes the name of the training provider, the

169 | topic covered, and the date and signature of the training
 170 | provider. The certificate is evidence of completion of training
 171 | in the identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is
 172 | not required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or
 173 | direct caregiver changes employment to a different hospice or to
 174 | a home health agency, assisted living facility, nursing home, or
 175 | adult day care center. The direct caregiver must comply with
 176 | other applicable continuing education requirements.

177 | Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 429.178, Florida
 178 | Statutes, is amended to read:

179 | 429.178 Special care for persons with Alzheimer's disease
 180 | or other related disorders.—

181 | (4) Upon completing any training listed in subsection (2),
 182 | the employee or direct caregiver shall be issued a certificate
 183 | that includes the name of the training provider, the topic
 184 | covered, and the date and signature of the training provider.
 185 | The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the
 186 | identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not
 187 | required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or
 188 | direct caregiver changes employment to a different assisted
 189 | living facility or nursing home, hospice, adult day care center,
 190 | or home health agency ~~facility~~. The employee or direct caregiver
 191 | must comply with other applicable continuing education
 192 | requirements.

193 | Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.