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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; 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 providing care for persons with Alzheimer's  
19 disease may begin employment without repeating certain  
20 training requirements; amending s. 400.6045, F.S.;  
21 requiring direct caregivers to comply with certain  
22 continuing education requirements; amending s. 429.178,  
23 F.S.; specifying the types of facilities where an employee  
24 or direct caregiver providing care for persons with  
25 Alzheimer's disease may begin employment without repeating  
26 certain training requirements; providing an effective  
27 date.  
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29 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive  
30 disorder of the brain which results in loss of memory and other  
31 cognitive functions, is the eighth leading cause of death in the  
32 United States, and currently affects an estimated 5 million  
33 Americans, with that number expected to increase to 16 million  
34 by mid-century, and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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57 | intervention may extend the period during which patients can be  
58 | cared for at home, thereby significantly reducing the costs of  
59 | institutional care, and

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

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

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

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

80

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

82

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

85 430.5025 Memory-impairment screening; grants.-

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

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

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

96 (b) Screenings for memory impairment.

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

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

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

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

110 (c) Provide matching funds.

111 (5) A qualifying entity that receives a grant under this  
 112 section shall submit to the department an evaluation that

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113 describes activities carried out with funds received under this  
114 section, the long-term effectiveness of such activities in  
115 promoting early detection of memory impairment, and any other  
116 information that the department requires.

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

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

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

136 Section 2. Implementation.—

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

140 (2) Implementation of the memory-impairment screening

141 grant program created under s. 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is  
 142 contingent upon appropriation of state funds or the availability  
 143 of private resources.

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

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

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

160 Section 4. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section  
 161 400.6045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

167 (h) Upon completing any training described in this  
 168 section, the employee or direct caregiver shall be issued a

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

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

180 429.178 Special care for persons with Alzheimer's disease  
 181 or other related disorders.-

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

194 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.