

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and  
Senator Wise

586-00843-12

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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           creating the memory-impairment screening grant  
7           program; providing criteria for awarding grants;  
8           providing a definition; requiring grant recipients to  
9           submit an evaluation of certain activities to the  
10          department; authorizing the department to provide  
11          technical support; requiring an annual report to the  
12          Legislature; providing for implementation of the  
13          public education program to operate within existing  
14          resources of the department; providing that  
15          implementation of the memory-impairment screening  
16          grant program is contingent upon an appropriation of  
17          state funds or the availability of private resources;  
18          amending s. 400.1755, F.S.; specifying the types of  
19          facilities where an employee or direct caregiver  
20          providing care for persons with Alzheimer's disease  
21          may begin employment without repeating certain  
22          training requirements; amending s. 400.6045, F.S.;  
23          requiring direct caregivers to comply with certain  
24          continuing education requirements; amending s.  
25          429.178, F.S.; specifying the types of facilities  
26          where an employee or direct caregiver providing care  
27          for persons with Alzheimer's disease may begin  
28          employment without repeating certain training  
29          requirements; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

82  
83 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

84  
85 Section 1. Section 430.5025, Florida Statutes, is created  
86 to read:

87 430.5025 Memory-impairment screening; grants.-

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

92       (2) (a) The memory-impairment screening grant program is  
93 created and shall be administered by the department.

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

97       1. Information and education on the importance of memory  
98 screening for early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's  
99 disease and related disorders.

100       2. Screenings for memory impairment.

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

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

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

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

114       (c) Provide matching funds.

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

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

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

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

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

140 Section 2. Implementation.-

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

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

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146 contingent upon appropriation of state funds or the availability  
147 of private resources.

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

150 400.1755 Care for persons with Alzheimer's disease or  
151 related disorders.—

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

164 Section 4. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section  
165 400.6045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

166 400.6045 Patients with Alzheimer's disease or other related  
167 disorders; staff training requirements; certain disclosures.—

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

170 (h) Upon completing any training described in this section,  
171 the employee or direct caregiver shall be issued a certificate  
172 that includes the name of the training provider, the topic  
173 covered, and the date and signature of the training provider.  
174 The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the

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175 identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not  
176 required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or  
177 direct caregiver changes employment to a different hospice or to  
178 a home health agency, assisted living facility, nursing home, or  
179 adult day care center. The direct caregiver must comply with  
180 other applicable continuing education requirements.

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

183 429.178 Special care for persons with Alzheimer's disease  
184 or other related disorders.—

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

197 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.