

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Alzheimer's disease; establishing
3 the Purple Ribbon Task Force within the Department of
4 Elderly Affairs; providing for membership; providing
5 that members shall serve without compensation or
6 reimbursement for per diem or travel expenses;
7 requiring the department to provide administrative
8 support; providing duties of the task force;
9 authorizing the task force to hold meetings by
10 teleconference or other electronic means, or in person
11 without compensation or reimbursement for per diem or
12 travel expenses; requiring the task force to submit a
13 report in the form of an Alzheimer's disease state
14 plan to the Governor and Legislature; providing for
15 termination of the task force; providing an effective
16 date.

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18 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive
19 disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other
20 cognitive functions and eventually death, and

21 WHEREAS, because Alzheimer's disease is accompanied by
22 memory loss, poor judgment, changes in personality and behavior,
23 and a tendency to wander or become lost, a person with this
24 disease is at an increased risk for accidental injury, abuse,
25 neglect, and exploitation, and

26 WHEREAS, approximately one in eight Americans 65 years of
27 age or older and almost half of Americans 85 years of age or

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28 | older develop Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia,
29 | and

30 | WHEREAS, there are 459,806 probable cases of Alzheimer's
31 | disease in this state in 2011, which population is expected to
32 | triple by the year 2050, and

33 | WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on
34 | family members, with an estimated one in four family members
35 | providing caregiving support for individuals with the disease,
36 | and

37 | WHEREAS, caregivers for persons having Alzheimer's disease
38 | witness the deteriorating effects of the disease and often
39 | suffer more emotional stress, depression, and health problems
40 | than caregivers of people having other illnesses, which can
41 | negatively affect such caregivers' employment, income, and
42 | financial security, and

43 | WHEREAS, younger-onset Alzheimer's disease is a form of
44 | Alzheimer's disease that strikes a person who is younger than 65
45 | years of age when symptoms first appear, but younger-onset
46 | Alzheimer's disease can strike persons as early as 30, 40, or 50
47 | years of age, with new data showing that there may be as many as
48 | 500,000 Americans under the age of 65 who have dementia or
49 | cognitive impairment at a level of severity consistent with
50 | dementia, and

51 | WHEREAS, the state needs to assess the current and future
52 | impact of Alzheimer's disease on Floridians and the state's
53 | health care system, programs, resources, and services to ensure
54 | the continued development and implementation of a more
55 | inclusive, integrated, comprehensive, coordinated, and current

56 strategy to address the needs of the growing number of
 57 Floridians having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of
 58 dementia and the corresponding needs of their caregivers, NOW,
 59 THEREFORE,

60
 61 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

62
 63 Section 1. The Purple Ribbon Task Force.—The Purple Ribbon
 64 Task Force is established within the Department of Elderly
 65 Affairs.

66 (1) The task force shall consist of 18 volunteer members,
 67 of whom six shall be appointed by the Governor, six shall be
 68 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
 69 six shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, as
 70 follows:

71 (a) A member of the House of Representatives.

72 (b) A member of the Senate.

73 (c) A representative from the Alzheimer's Association.

74 (d) At least one person having Alzheimer's disease or a
 75 related form of dementia.

76 (e) At least one family caregiver or former family
 77 caregiver of a person having Alzheimer's disease or a related
 78 form of dementia.

79 (f) A representative from the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory
 80 Committee.

81 (g) A representative of law enforcement with knowledge
 82 about the disappearance and recovery, self-neglect, abuse,

83 exploitation, and suicide of persons having Alzheimer's disease
 84 or a related form of dementia.

85 (h) A representative who has knowledge of and experience
 86 with the Baker Act and its impact on persons having Alzheimer's
 87 disease or a related form of dementia.

88 (i) An expert on disaster preparedness and response for
 89 persons having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of
 90 dementia.

91 (j) A representative of a health care facility or hospice
 92 that serves persons with Alzheimer's disease.

93 (k) A representative of the adult day care services
 94 industry.

95 (l) A representative of health care practitioners
 96 specializing in the treatment of persons having Alzheimer's
 97 disease or a related form of dementia.

98 (m) A Florida board-certified elder law attorney.

99 (n) A representative of the area agencies on aging or
 100 aging and disability resource centers.

101 (o) A person who is an Alzheimer's disease researcher.

102 (p) A representative from a memory disorder clinic.

103 (q) A representative of the assisted living facility
 104 industry.

105 (r) A representative of the skilled nursing facility
 106 industry.

107 (2) Initial appointments to the task force shall be made
 108 by July 1, 2012. A vacancy on the task force shall be filled for
 109 the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the
 110 original appointment.

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111 (3) Members shall serve on the task force without
112 compensation and may not receive reimbursement for per diem or
113 travel expenses.

114 (4) The Department of Elderly Affairs shall convene the
115 task force and provide necessary administrative support.

116 (5) The task force shall:

117 (a) Assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's
118 disease and related forms of dementia on the state.

119 (b) Examine the existing industries, services, and
120 resources addressing the needs of persons having Alzheimer's
121 disease or a related form of dementia and their family
122 caregivers.

123 (c) Examine the needs of persons of all cultural
124 backgrounds having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of
125 dementia and how their lives are affected by the disease from
126 younger-onset, through mid-stage, to late-stage.

127 (d) Develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to
128 this public health crisis.

129 (e) Provide information regarding:

130 1. State trends with respect to persons having Alzheimer's
131 disease or a related form of dementia and their needs,
132 including, but not limited to:

133 a. The role of the state in providing community-based
134 care, long-term care, and family caregiver support, including
135 respite, education, and assistance to persons who are in the
136 early stages of Alzheimer's disease, who have younger-onset
137 Alzheimer's disease, or who have a related form of dementia.

138 b. The development of state policy with respect to persons
139 having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia.

140 c. Surveillance of persons having Alzheimer's disease or a
141 related form of dementia for the purpose of accurately
142 estimating the number of such persons in the state at present
143 and projected population levels.

144 2. Existing services, resources, and capacity, including,
145 but not limited to:

146 a. The type, cost, and availability of dementia-specific
147 services throughout the state.

148 b. Policy requirements and effectiveness for dementia-
149 specific training for professionals providing care.

150 c. Quality care measures employed by providers of care,
151 including providers of respite, adult day care, assisted living
152 facility, skilled nursing facility, and hospice services.

153 d. The capability of public safety workers and law
154 enforcement officers to respond to persons having Alzheimer's
155 disease or a related form of dementia, including, but not
156 limited to, responding to their disappearance, search and
157 rescue, abuse, elopement, exploitation, or suicide.

158 e. The availability of home and community-based services
159 and respite care for persons having Alzheimer's disease or a
160 related form of dementia and education and support services to
161 assist their families and caregivers.

162 f. An inventory of long-term care facilities and
163 community-based services serving persons having Alzheimer's
164 disease or a related form of dementia.

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165 g. The adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-
166 psychiatric units for persons having behavior disorders
167 associated with Alzheimer's disease or a related form of
168 dementia.

169 h. Residential assisted living options for persons having
170 Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia.

171 i. The level of preparedness of service providers before,
172 during, and after a catastrophic emergency involving a person
173 having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia and
174 their caregivers and families.

175 3. Needed state policies or responses, including, but not
176 limited to, directions for the provision of clear and
177 coordinated care, services, and support to persons having
178 Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia and their
179 caregivers and families and strategies to address any identified
180 gaps in the provision of services.

181 (f) Hold public meetings and employ technological means to
182 gather feedback on the recommendations submitted by persons
183 having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia, their
184 caregivers and families, and the general public. Meetings of the
185 task force may be held in person without compensation or
186 reimbursement for travel expenses, by teleconference, or by
187 other electronic means.

188 (6) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
189 and date-specific recommendations in the form of an Alzheimer's
190 disease state plan to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
191 Representatives, and the President of the Senate no later than

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192 | August 1, 2013. The task force shall terminate on the earlier of
193 | the date the report is submitted or August 1, 2013.

194 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.