

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services

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BILL: SB 398

INTRODUCER: Senator Burgess and others

SUBJECT: Awareness Program for Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia-related Disorders

DATE: March 17, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Rao</u>	<u>Tuszynski</u>	<u>CF</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	<u>Gerbrandt</u>	<u>McKnight</u>	<u>AHS</u>	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

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**I. Summary:**

SB 398 requires the Department of Elderly Affairs (DOEA) to contract for the development and implementation of the Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Program. The bill specifies requirements for the program and conditions for the contracted entity.

The bill requires the Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee to annually evaluate the program and determine if future funding is needed.

The bill has a significant negative impact on state expenditures. The bill appropriates \$1.5 million to the DOEA to implement the bill. **See Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia-Related Disorders**

Dementia is a general term for an individuals’ decline in memory, language, and problem-solving capabilities.<sup>1</sup> Common causes of dementia include:<sup>2</sup>

- Alzheimer’s disease;
- Cerebrovascular disease;
- Frontotemporal degeneration;

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<sup>1</sup> Alzheimer’s Association, *2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures*, available at: <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/76e51bb6-c003-4d84-8019-e0779d8c4e8d/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited 2/17/25).

<sup>2</sup> Alzheimer’s Association, *2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures*, available at: <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/76e51bb6-c003-4d84-8019-e0779d8c4e8d/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited 2/17/25).

- Hippocampal sclerosis;
- Lewy body disease;
- Mixed pathologies; and
- Parkinson's Disease.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia and is considered a progressive disease, which means symptoms worsen with time.<sup>3</sup> Alzheimer's disease causes damage to the brain's neurons, which can lead to decreased cognitive functioning and an increased need for assistance in performing daily tasks.<sup>4</sup> Individuals with Alzheimer's disease may develop changes in their mood or engage in behaviors that could be dangerous, such as wandering from a safe location and being unable to retrace their steps back to safety.<sup>5</sup> Due to the damage to the brain's neurons, individuals lose the ability to engage in bodily functions such as walking or swallowing and require continual care.<sup>6</sup> On average, individuals live with Alzheimer's disease four to eight years after a diagnosis.<sup>7</sup> However, the lifespan of an individual with Alzheimer's disease is contingent on factors such as age and co-occurring health conditions. Some individuals have lived over twenty years after receiving an Alzheimer's disease diagnosis.<sup>8</sup>

It is estimated that there are more than six million Americans that currently live with Alzheimer's disease.<sup>9</sup> Research predicts that by 2060, there will be an expected 13 million individuals living with Alzheimer's disease nationwide.<sup>10</sup>

There are an estimated 580,000 Floridians over the age of 65 that are living with Alzheimer's disease.<sup>11</sup> Due to Florida's high population of individuals over the age of 65 (21% of Florida's population), this number is expected to grow in the coming years.<sup>12</sup>

### **The Department of Elderly Affairs**

The Department of Elderly Affairs (DOEA) is charged with administering programs and services for elders across the state of Florida, including services for those affected by Alzheimer's

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<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Health Statistics Reports, *Diagnosed Dementia in Adults Age 65 and Older: United States, 2022*, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/alzheimers.htm> (last visited 2/17/25) and Alzheimer's Association, 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, available at: <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/76e51bb6-c003-4d84-8019-e0779d8c4e8d/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited 2/17/25).

<sup>4</sup> Alzheimer's Association, 2024 *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, available at: <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/76e51bb6-c003-4d84-8019-e0779d8c4e8d/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited 2/17/25).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2024 Update*, available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/collaborations-committees-advisory-groups/napa/napa-documents/napa-national-plan> (last visited 2/17/25).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Florida Department of Elderly Affairs, *Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee Annual Report (2023)*, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/bureau-of-elder-rights/alzheimers-disease-initiative/> (last visited 2/17/25).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

disease.<sup>13</sup> The DOEA contracts with Area Agencies on Aging<sup>14</sup> that are required to ensure prevention, early intervention, and long-term care services to the elderly population in Florida.<sup>15</sup> There are currently eleven Area Agencies on Aging across the state, which operate as Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).<sup>16</sup> The ADRCs provide residents with information about state, federal, and local programs and benefits.<sup>17</sup>

### ***Alzheimer's Disease Initiative***

In 1985, the Legislature established the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI), intended to provide services for individuals and families that have been affected by Alzheimer's disease.<sup>18</sup> The Dementia Director, appointed by the Secretary of Elderly Affairs, is responsible for providing support to memory disorder clinics throughout the state, facilitating coordination for services between a variety of providers, and monitoring data on the impact of Alzheimer's disease in Florida.<sup>19</sup>

### ***Services for Individuals and Families affected by Alzheimer's Disease***

Memory disorder clinics throughout the state provide diagnostic and therapeutic settings for individuals with Alzheimer's disease. These settings allow for the research of Alzheimer's disease and training of professionals that care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease.<sup>20</sup>

Respite care provides temporary relief for caregivers and may be provided in conjunction with a memory disorder clinic.<sup>21</sup> Respite options for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease may include:<sup>22</sup>

- In-home care.
- Facility-based care.
- Specialized adult day care.
- Emergency respite care.
- Extended care for up to 30 days.

Other supportive services for caregivers may include:<sup>23</sup>

- Case management.

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<sup>13</sup> Chapter 430, F.S.; Florida Department of Elderly Affairs, *About Us*, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/> (last visited 2/14/25).

<sup>14</sup> Florida law defines an "area agency on aging" as a public or nonprivate private agency or office designated by the DOEA to coordinate and administer the DOEA's programs and to provide, through contracting agencies, services within a planning and service area. Area Agencies on Aging serve as both the advocate and the visible focal point in its planning and service area to foster the development of comprehensive and coordinated service systems to serve older individuals.

<sup>15</sup> Section 20.41, F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Florida Department of Elderly Affairs, *About Us*, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/> (last visited 2/14/25).

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> Florida Department of Elderly Affairs, *Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI)*, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/bureau-of-elder-rights/alzheimers-disease-initiative/> (last visited 2/17/25); Ch. 85-145, L.O.F.

<sup>19</sup> Section 430.5015, F.S.

<sup>20</sup> Section 430.502, F.S.

<sup>21</sup> Section 430.502, F.S.

<sup>22</sup> Florida Department of Elderly Affairs, *Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI)*, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/bureau-of-elder-rights/alzheimers-disease-initiative/> (last visited 2/17/25).

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

- Specialized medical equipment and supplies.
- Caregiver counseling and support groups.
- Caregiver training and relief.

### *Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee*

The Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee (committee) is composed of stakeholders, including Ph.D. researchers, caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease, medical professionals, and legislative representatives.<sup>24</sup> Each year, the committee submits a report that details the current state-funded efforts in Alzheimer's disease research and provides recommendations for improving Alzheimer's disease policy.<sup>25</sup>

The committee makes various recommendations surrounding policy, research, clinical care, institutional care, and home and community-based services for Alzheimer's disease policy.<sup>26</sup> In 2023, one of the committee's recommendations identified a need for improving the distribution of information on Alzheimer's disease research findings.<sup>27</sup>

### *Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Resource Guide*

The DOEA is required to provide public education on Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia.<sup>28</sup> The DOEA compiles information for the public and publishes the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Resource Guide.<sup>29</sup> Information provided in the resource guide includes information such as:<sup>30</sup>

- Warning signs of Alzheimer's;
- Protecting and improving brain health;
- Next steps after an Alzheimer's diagnosis; and
- Service providers in each area throughout the state.

This information is published online and is available to the public.<sup>31</sup>

### **Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** creates s. 430.5016, F.S., to require the Department of Elderly Affairs to contract for the development and implementation of the Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Program. The program will assist Florida residents that are affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia-related disorders with obtaining reputable national research.

At a minimum, the program is required to:

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<sup>24</sup> Section 430.501, F.S.

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

<sup>26</sup> Florida Department of Elder Affairs, *Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee Annual Report (2023)*, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/bureau-of-elder-rights/alzheimers-disease-initiative/> (last visited 2/17/25).

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> Section 430.5025, F.S.

<sup>29</sup> Department of Elder Affairs State Health Improvement Plan, *Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Resource Guide*, available at: [https://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/research/florida-health-grand-rounds/SHIPPA9ADRDRResourceGuide\\_final.pdf](https://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/research/florida-health-grand-rounds/SHIPPA9ADRDRResourceGuide_final.pdf) (last visited 2/17/25).

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

<sup>31</sup> *Id.*

- Include a website and other related electronic resources that address:
  - The advantages of early detection and diagnosis;
  - Methods for reducing risk factors;
  - The importance of brain health;
  - Scheduling screenings and assessments for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia-related disorders with a licensed health care provider;
  - Healthy aging;
  - Recent developments in Alzheimer's research and dementia-related disorders and the availability of clinical trials;
  - Community resources available for those affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia-related disorders; and
  - Any related topics as deemed appropriate by the DOEA.
- Use the DOEA’s Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Resource Guide as part of the program materials.
- Promote health care provider education in partnership with the Department of Health to help improve care for patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia-related disorders.
- Include print and digital advertising.
- Include a statewide, mobile, in-person outreach program that prioritizes those in underserved communities and provides information on issues relating to Alzheimer's disease and dementia-related disorders.
- Provide referrals to the DOEA.
- Provide information regarding available community resources for Alzheimer's disease or dementia-related disorders.

The bill requires the DOEA to contract for the development and implementation of the program. The contracted entity must be statewide nonprofit organization must have a history of focusing on those affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia-related disorders and have the organizational capacity to successfully manage a statewide program. The contracted entity is required to collaborate with other relevant state agencies and private organizations to develop and implement the program.

The bill requires the Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee to annually evaluate the program and make recommendations to the DOEA and the Legislature concerning the need for future funding for the program.

**Section 2** appropriates \$1.5 million in nonrecurring General Revenue funds to the DOEA to administer the Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**Section 3** provides that the bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

### III. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The bill does not appear to require cities and counties to expend funds or limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified by Article VII, s. 18, of the State Constitution.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None Identified.

**IV. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million in nonrecurring general revenue funds to the Department of Elderly Affairs to administer the Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**V. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VI. Related Issues:**

None.

**VII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 430.5016 of the Florida Statutes.

**VIII. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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