

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2     An act relating to memory care; amending s. 429.177,  
3     F.S.; defining the term "memory care services";  
4     requiring memory care providers to follow specified  
5     standards of operation in providing memory care  
6     services; providing requirements for resident  
7     contracts; providing requirements for memory care  
8     facilities; prohibiting certain facilities from  
9     advertising, representing, or holding themselves out  
10    as memory care providers unless such facilities meet  
11    specified criteria; repealing s. 429.178, F.S.,  
12    relating to special care for persons with Alzheimer's  
13    disease, dementia, or other memory disorders; creating  
14    s. 430.71, F.S.; providing purpose and legislative  
15    intent for the Florida Alzheimer's Center of  
16    Excellence; providing definitions; providing duties of  
17    the center; providing eligibility requirements for  
18    services; providing effective dates.

19  
20    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22           **Section 1. Effective January 1, 2027, section 429.177,**  
23   **Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

24           429.177 Patients with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or  
25    other memory ~~related~~ disorders; certain disclosures; minimum

standards.—

(1) "Memory care services" means specialized or focused care and services designed to address health or behavioral issues resulting from Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or other memory disorders.

(2)(a) A facility that advertises itself as a memory care provider or otherwise claims that the facility provides memory care services, including, but not limited to, services for residents with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or other memory disorders, must meet all of the following standards of operation for such services:

1. Develop and implement policies and procedures addressing all of the following:

a. Admittance criteria.

b. Care and services necessary to address the needs of persons admitted for memory care services.

2. Activities specifically designed and offered for persons admitted for memory care services.

3. Maintenance of a current and accurate log of residents admitted as receiving memory care services.

(b) The standards in paragraph (a) apply to any unit designated for the provision of memory care services or to a facility that provides memory care services to any resident admitted and requiring such services.

50       (3) In addition to the requirements of s. 429.24, resident  
51 contracts must specify all memory care services to be provided  
52 and any related costs should those costs exceed standard room  
53 and board.

54       (4) In addition to the requirements of s. 429.26(7), for  
55 persons residing in a memory care facility, the facility shall:

56       (a) Notify a licensed physician when a resident has a  
57 change of condition specific to increased or more severe  
58 dementia, or other memory disorder to ensure that appropriate  
59 care is provided to the resident. The notification must occur  
60 within 30 days after the acknowledgement of such changes in  
61 condition by facility staff.

62       (b) If a change in the resident's condition is determined  
63 to exist, notify the resident's representative or designee and  
64 assist in making appointments for the necessary care and  
65 services for treatment of the change in condition.

66       (c) If the resident does not have a representative or  
67 designee, or if the resident's representative or designee cannot  
68 be located or is unresponsive, arrange with the appropriate  
69 health care provider for the necessary care and services for  
70 treatment of the change in condition.

71       (5) (a) The memory care facility, or if a memory care  
72 provider has a specific unit designated for memory care  
73 services, must have at least one staff member present to provide  
74 care and services at all times. The staff member shall:

75        1. Stay awake at all times.

76        2. Meet any training required as defined by statute or  
77 rule for assisted living facilities, including the training and  
78 continuing education requirements of s. 430.5025.

79        3. Be certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary  
80 resuscitation.

81        (b) A staff member administering medication or providing  
82 assistance with the self-administration of medication may not be  
83 considered as the sole staff member toward the staffing  
84 requirement while engaged in these tasks.

85        (6) A facility licensed under this part which claims that  
86 it provides special care for persons who have Alzheimer's  
87 disease, ~~dementia~~, or other memory ~~related~~ disorders must  
88 disclose in its advertisements or in a separate document those  
89 services that distinguish the care as being especially  
90 applicable to, or suitable for, such persons. The facility must  
91 give a copy of all such advertisements or a copy of the document  
92 to each person who requests information about programs and  
93 services for persons with Alzheimer's disease, ~~dementia~~, or  
94 other memory ~~related~~ disorders offered by the facility and must  
95 maintain a copy of all such advertisements and documents in its  
96 records. The agency shall examine all such advertisements and  
97 documents in the facility's records as part of the license  
98 renewal procedure.

99        **Section 2.** Effective January 1, 2027, section 429.178,

Florida Statutes, is repealed.

**Section 3. Section 430.71, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

430.71 Florida Alzheimer's Center of Excellence.—

(1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The purpose of this section is to assist and support persons with Alzheimer's disease or related forms of dementia and their caregivers by connecting them with resources in their communities to address two primary goals:

(a) To allow residents of this state living with Alzheimer's disease or related forms of dementia to age in place.

(b) To empower family caregivers to improve their own well-being.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Center" means the Florida Alzheimer's Center for Excellence.

(b) "Department" means the Department of Elderly Affairs.

(3) POWERS AND DUTIES.—

(a) There is created within the department the Florida Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, which shall assist in improving the quality of care for persons living with Alzheimer's disease or related forms of dementia and improved quality of life for family caregivers. The center may contract for services necessary to implement this section. The center shall:

125        1. Conduct caregiver assessments to measure caregiver  
126 burden.

127        2. Create personalized plans that guide caregivers to  
128 community resources, empowering them with the skills, education,  
129 support, and planning necessary for effective caregiving,  
130 including addressing any medical, emotional, social, legal or  
131 financial challenges experienced by the person with Alzheimer's  
132 disease or a related form of dementia.

133        3. Educate and assist caregivers with strategies for  
134 caregiving for someone with Alzheimer's disease or a related  
135 form of dementia and provide guidance on all aspects of home-  
136 based care, including home safety, physical and mental health,  
137 legal and financial preparedness, communication skills, and  
138 hands-on care techniques.

139        4. Provide online educational resources for caregivers.

140        5. Track outcomes, including, but not limited to,  
141 decreased hospitalizations, reduced emergency department visits,  
142 reduction in falls, and reduction in caregiver burnout.

143        6. By December 1 of each year, submit a report to the  
144 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
145 House of Representatives. The report must address the number of  
146 families served, the types of services provided, and the  
147 outcomes achieved.

148        (b) The center shall work with the Area Agencies on Aging;  
149 the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee established under s.

150 430.501; the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative established under  
151 ss. 430.501-430.504; the state-funded memory disorder clinics  
152 established under s. 430.502; the department's Dementia Care and  
153 Cure Initiative task forces; universities; hospitals; and other  
154 available community resources to ensure full use of the state's  
155 infrastructure.

156 (4) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—

157 (a) To qualify for assistance from the center, an  
158 individual or caregiver must meet all of the following criteria:

159 1. At least one person in the household is a caregiver for  
160 a person diagnosed with, or suspected to have, Alzheimer's  
161 disease or a related form of dementia.

162 2. The caregiver or the person diagnosed with, or  
163 suspected to have, Alzheimer's disease or a related form of  
164 dementia, is a resident of this state.

165 3. The person seeking assistance has the goal of providing  
166 in-home care for the person diagnosed with, or suspected to  
167 have, Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia.

168 (b) If the person seeking assistance meets the criteria in  
169 paragraph (a), the center may provide assistance to the  
170 caregiving family, subject to the availability of funds and  
171 resources.

172 **Section 4.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
173 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.