

HB 1295

2026

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

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

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

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

26 standards.—

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

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

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

39 a. Admittance criteria.

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

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

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

46 (b) The standards in paragraph (a) apply to any unit
47 designated for the provision of memory care services or to a
48 facility that provides memory care services to any resident
49 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,

100 Florida Statutes, is repealed.

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

103 430.71 Florida Alzheimer's Center of Excellence.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

117 (3) POWERS AND DUTIES.—

118 (a) There is created within the department the Florida
119 Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, which shall assist in
120 improving the quality of care for persons living with
121 Alzheimer's disease or related forms of dementia and improved
122 quality of life for family caregivers. The center may contract
123 for services necessary to implement this section. The center
124 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.