

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.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

BILL: SB 578

INTRODUCER: Senator Simon

SUBJECT: Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative

DATE: January 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Kennedy</u>	<u>Tuszynski</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 578 creates s. 430.505, F.S., to require the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) to contract for the development and implementation of a statewide Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative.

The bill requires the initiative to provide Florida residents affected by Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) with greater support and access to information validated in national research, and establishes minimum initiative components, including an informational website, use of the ADRD Resource Guide, health care provider education in partnership with the Department of Health, public event advertising, and a statewide mobile in-person outreach program that prioritizes underserved communities.

The bill requires DOEA to contract with a statewide nonprofit organization meeting specified experience and capacity requirements, requires collaboration with relevant state agencies and private organizations, and requires the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee to annually evaluate the initiative's effectiveness and make future funding recommendations in its annual report.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia-Related Disorders

Dementia is a general term for an individuals' decline in memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking skills that impact a person's ability to perform everyday activities.¹ Common causes of dementia include:²

- Alzheimer's disease
- Cerebrovascular disease (vascular dementia)
- Frontotemporal degeneration (FTD)
- Hippocampal sclerosis (HS)
- Lewy body disease (DLB)
- Mixed pathologies / mixed dementia
- Parkinson's disease (PD) dementia

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia and is considered a progressive disease, which means symptoms worsen with time.³ Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that damages and destroys neurons in the brain, leading to declines in memory, language, thinking, and other cognitive functions.⁴ As the disease progresses, individuals increasingly require assistance with activities of daily living.⁵ People living with Alzheimer's disease may also experience changes in mood, personality, or behavior and may engage in unsafe behaviors, such as becoming disoriented, wandering from familiar environments, or losing the ability to retrace their steps.⁶ Continued neuronal damage eventually affects basic physical functions, including walking and swallowing, resulting in the need for continuous, around-the-clock care.⁷

On average, individuals live four to eight years after receiving an Alzheimer's disease diagnosis, although survival varies based on factors such as age at diagnosis, disease progression, and co-occurring health conditions; some individuals live as long as 20 years or more following diagnosis.⁸ In the United States, an estimated 7.2 million adults aged 65 and older are currently living with Alzheimer's dementia.⁹ Due to population aging, this number is projected to rise

¹ Alzheimer's Association, *2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, available at: <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/ef8f48f9-ad36-48ea-87f9-b74034635c1e/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited 12/30/25).

² *Id.*

³ National Center for Health Statistics, *National Health Statistics Reports No. 203, Diagnosed Dementia in Adults Age 65 and Older: United States, 2022*, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr203.pdf> (last visited 12/30/25) and Alzheimer's Association, *2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, available at: <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/ef8f48f9-ad36-48ea-87f9-b74034635c1e/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited 12/30/25).

⁴ Alzheimer's Association, *2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, available at: <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/ef8f48f9-ad36-48ea-87f9-b74034635c1e/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited 1/5/26).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

substantially, with estimates indicating that 13.8 million Americans could be living with Alzheimer's dementia by 2060.¹⁰

Florida is currently home to approximately 580,000 Floridians age 65 and older living with Alzheimer's disease.¹¹ Because Florida's population is aging, with about 23% of residents age 65 and older and that proportion continuing to grow, the number of Floridians living with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise substantially in the coming years.¹² Florida also has the second-highest prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in the nation, and the highest prevalence per capita, underscoring the urgency of statewide planning and services to meet growing needs.¹³

Florida Alzheimer's disease caregiving demands are also substantial, approximately 870,000 Florida caregivers provide roughly 1.4 billion hours of unpaid care valued at \$29.4 billion.¹⁴ Additionally, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in Florida, reflecting both the human and health-system impact of the disease statewide.¹⁵

The Department of Elder Affairs

The Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) is charged with administering programs and services for elders across the state of Florida, including services for those affected by Alzheimer's disease.¹⁶ The DOEA contracts with Area Agencies on Aging¹⁷ that are required to ensure prevention, early intervention, and long-term care services to the elderly population in Florida.¹⁸ There are currently 11 Area Agencies on Aging across the state, which operate as Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).¹⁹ The ADRCs provide residents with information about state, federal, and local programs and benefits.²⁰

¹⁰ Alzheimer's Association, *2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*, available at:

<https://www.alz.org/getmedia/ef8f48f9-ad36-48ea-87f9-b74034635c1e/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf> (last visited 1/5/26).

¹¹ Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee – Annual Report 2025, available at:

<https://elderaffairs.org/wp-content/uploads/Alzheimers-Disease-Advisory-Committee-%E2%80%93-Annual-Report-2023.pdf> (last visited 1/5/26). Note: Although the link says Annual Report 2023 it is linked to the 2025 Annual Report.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Chapter 430, F.S.; Florida Department of Elder Affairs, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/> (last visited 1/5/2026).

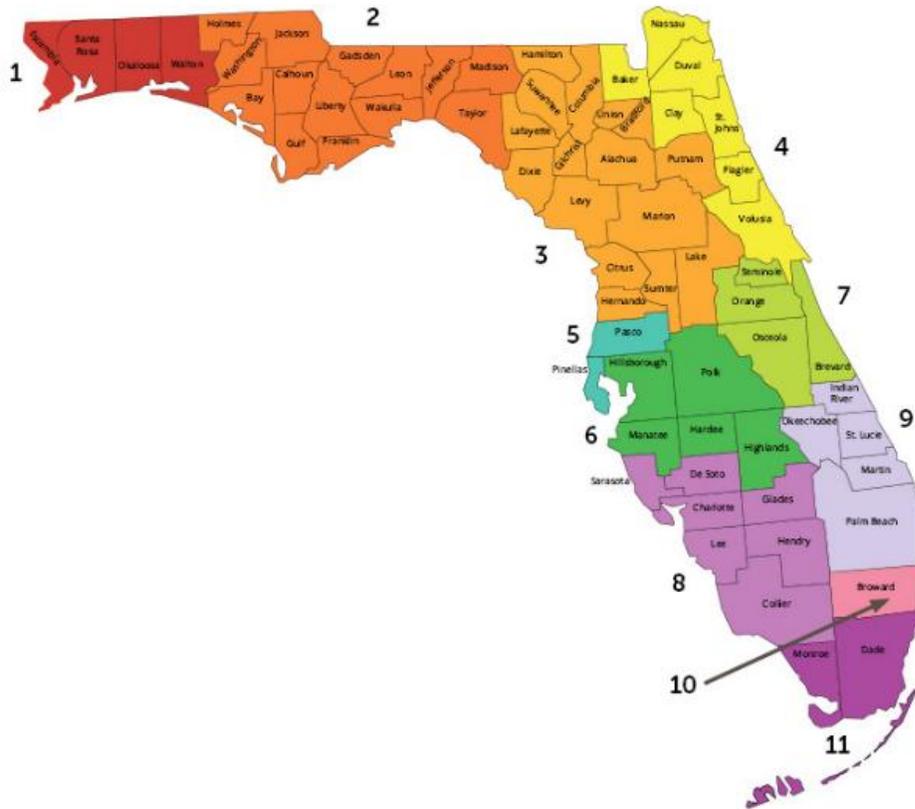
¹⁷ Florida law defines an "area agency on aging" as a public or nonprivate agency or office designated by the DOEA to coordinate and administer the DOEA's programs and to provide, through contracting agencies, services within a planning and service area. Area Agencies on Aging serve as both the advocate 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.

¹⁸ Section 20.41, F.S.

¹⁹ Florida Department of Elder Affairs, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/> (last visited 1/5/2026).

²⁰ *Id.*

The picture below displays the Area Agencies on Aging throughout Florida.²¹



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.²² The Dementia Director, appointed by the Secretary of Elder 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.²³

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.²⁴

²¹ *Id.*

²² Florida Department of Elder Affairs, *Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative (ADI)*, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/bureau-of-elder-rights/alzheimers-disease-initiative/> (last visited 1/5/2026); Ch. 85-145, L.O.F.

²³ Section 430.5015, F.S.

²⁴ Section 430.502, F.S.

Respite care provides temporary relief for caregivers and may be provided in conjunction with a memory disorder clinic.²⁵ Respite options for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease may include:²⁶

- In-home care.
- Facility-based care.
- Emergency respite care.
- Extended care up to 30 days.

Other supportive services for caregivers may include:²⁷

- Case management.
- 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.²⁸ 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.²⁹

The committee makes various recommendations surrounding policy, research, clinical care, institutional care, and home and community-based services for Alzheimer’s disease policy.³⁰ In 2025, one of the committee’s recommendations identified a need for improving the distribution of information on Alzheimer’s disease by launching a State-Supported Public Awareness Campaign with a goal to significantly increase understanding of ADRD, promote early detection, and reduce stigma.³¹

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.³² The DOEA compiles information for the public and publishes the ADRD Resource Guide.³³ Information provided in the resource guide includes information such as:³⁴

- Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s;

²⁵ Section 430.502, F.S.

²⁶ Florida Department of Elder Affairs, *Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative (ADI)*, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/bureau-of-elder-rights/alzheimers-disease-initiative/> (last visited 1/5/2026).

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Section 430.501, F.S.

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee – Annual Report 2025, available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/wp-content/uploads/Alzheimers-Disease-Advisory-Committee-%E2%80%93-Annual-Report-2023.pdf> (last visited 1/5/26). Note: Although the link says Annual Report 2023 it is linked to the 2025 Annual Report.

³¹ *Id.*

³² Section 430.5025, F.S.

³³ Florida Department of Elder Affairs, SHIP ADRD Resource Guide (2025), available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/wp-content/uploads/SHIP-ADRD-Resource-Guide-2025.pdf> (last visited 1/5/26).

³⁴ *Id.*

- 10 Ways to Love Your Brain (brain health / brain protection);
- Next Steps After an Alzheimer’s Diagnosis; and
- Statewide maps/resource listings (e.g., Dementia Care and Cure Initiative, Area Agencies on Aging, Memory Disorder Clinics).

This information is published online and is available to the public.³⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 of the bill creates s. 430.505, F.S. to require the DOEA to contract for the development and implementation of an Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Initiative.

The bill requires that the initiative provide an opportunity for Florida residents affected by ADRD to obtain greater support and access to information validated in national research.

The bill requires the initiative, at a minimum, to include a website and related electronic resources addressing:

- The advantages of early detection and diagnosis;
- How to reduce risk factors;
- The importance of brain health;
- The importance of talking to a professional about being screened and assessed;
- How to promote healthy aging;
- Recent progress in research and availability of clinical trials;
- Community resources available for individuals affected by ADRD; and
- Any other related topic deemed appropriate by DOEA.

The bill requires the initiative to use DOEA’s ADRD Resource Guide as part of initiative materials. It requires the initiative to promote health care provider education in partnership with the Department of Health to improve patient care and services for individuals with ADRD, consistent with s. 381.825, F.S. The bill requires the initiative to use varied forms of advertising for public events, including print, digital, and social media advertising.

The bill requires the initiative to include a statewide mobile in-person outreach program that:

- Prioritizes underserved communities;
- Provides information on ADRD, including brain health, risk education, early detection, and diagnosis; and
- May provide referrals to DOEA and information regarding community resources.

The bill requires DOEA to contract with a statewide nonprofit organization that:

- Has a history of focusing on care and support for individuals affected by ADRD (including online resources and community-based events) and supporting Alzheimer disease research;
- Has the organizational capacity to manage and successfully carry out a statewide initiative.

³⁵ Florida Department of Elder Affairs, SHIP ADRD Resource Guide (2025), available at: <https://elderaffairs.org/wp-content/uploads/SHIP-ADRD-Resource-Guide-2025.pdf> (last visited 1/5/26).

The bill also requires the contracted entity to collaborate with other relevant state agencies and private organizations to develop and implement the initiative and requires those agencies to collaborate with the entity.

Finally, the bill requires the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee to annually evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative and to make recommendations to DOEA and the Legislature regarding the need for future funding, as part of the committee's annual report.

This language expands the requirements of the DOEA in relation to its existing Alzheimer's Disease Initiative to provide services and supports to also include an awareness campaign implemented by a nonprofit that has history of focusing on care and support of this population and has the organizational capacity to manage a statewide initiative.

Section 2 of the bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

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.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Indeterminate, likely significant fiscal impact. The selected nonprofit will receive contract dollars to cover the cost to implement the initiative, to include creating the required website and materials, conducting outreach, and advertising public events.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Indeterminate, likely significant fiscal impact. The bill requires DOEA to contract for and support a statewide Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative, including a website, advertising, and a mobile outreach program. The bill also requires the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee to evaluate the initiative each year, which may add administrative workload.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates s. 430.505, Florida Statutes.

IX. 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.