

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; requiring the task force to submit an interim  
9           study to the Governor and Legislature regarding state  
10          trends with respect to persons having Alzheimer's  
11          disease or a related form of dementia; providing  
12          duties of the task force; authorizing the task force  
13          to hold meetings by teleconference or other electronic  
14          means, or in person without compensation or  
15          reimbursement for per diem or travel expenses;  
16          requiring the task force to submit a report in the  
17          form of an Alzheimer's disease state plan to the  
18          Governor and Legislature; providing for termination of  
19          the task force; providing an effective date.

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

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

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29 WHEREAS, approximately one in eight Americans 65 years of  
30 age or older and almost half of Americans 85 years of age or  
31 older develop Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia,  
32 and

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

36 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on  
37 family members, with an estimated one in four family members  
38 providing caregiving support for individuals with the disease,  
39 and

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

46 WHEREAS, younger-onset Alzheimer's disease is a form of  
47 Alzheimer's disease that strikes a person who is younger than 65  
48 years of age when symptoms first appear, but younger-onset  
49 Alzheimer's disease can strike persons as early as 30, 40, or 50  
50 years of age, with new data showing that there may be as many as  
51 500,000 Americans under the age of 65 who have dementia or  
52 cognitive impairment at a level of severity consistent with  
53 dementia, and

54 WHEREAS, the state needs to assess the current and future  
55 impact of Alzheimer's disease on Floridians and the state's  
56 health care system, programs, resources, and services to ensure

57 | the continued development and implementation of a more  
 58 | inclusive, integrated, comprehensive, coordinated, and current  
 59 | strategy to address the needs of the growing number of  
 60 | Floridians having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of  
 61 | dementia and the corresponding needs of their caregivers, NOW,  
 62 | THEREFORE,

63 |  
 64 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

65 |  
 66 |       Section 1. The Purple Ribbon Task Force.—The Purple Ribbon  
 67 | Task Force is established within the Department of Elderly  
 68 | Affairs.

69 |       (1) The task force shall consist of 18 volunteer,  
 70 | culturally diverse members, of whom six shall be appointed by  
 71 | the Governor, six shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House  
 72 | of Representatives, and six shall be appointed by the President  
 73 | of the Senate, as follows:

74 |       (a) A member of the House of Representatives.

75 |       (b) A member of the Senate.

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

77 |       (d) At least one person having Alzheimer's disease or a  
 78 | related form of dementia.

79 |       (e) At least one family caregiver or former family  
 80 | caregiver of a person having Alzheimer's disease or a related  
 81 | form of dementia.

82 |       (f) A representative from the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory  
 83 | Committee.

84 (g) A representative of law enforcement with knowledge  
85 about the disappearance and recovery, self-neglect, abuse,  
86 exploitation, and suicide of persons having Alzheimer's disease  
87 or a related form of dementia.

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

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

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

96 (k) A representative of the adult day care services  
97 industry.

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

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

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

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

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

106 (q) A representative of the assisted living facility  
107 industry.

108 (r) A representative of the skilled nursing facility  
109 industry.

110 (2) Initial appointments to the task force shall be made  
111 by July 1, 2012. A vacancy on the task force shall be filled for

112 the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the  
113 original appointment.

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

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

119 (5) The task force shall:

120 (a) Submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
121 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 30,  
122 2013, an interim study regarding state trends with respect to  
123 persons having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia  
124 and their needs.

125 (b) Assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's  
126 disease and related forms of dementia on the state.

127 (c) Examine the existing industries, services, and  
128 resources addressing the needs of persons having Alzheimer's  
129 disease or a related form of dementia and their family  
130 caregivers.

131 (d) Examine the needs of persons of all cultural  
132 backgrounds having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of  
133 dementia and how their lives are affected by the disease from  
134 younger-onset, through mid-stage, to late-stage.

135 (e) Develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to  
136 this public health crisis.

137 (f) Provide information regarding:

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

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

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

148 c. Surveillance of persons having Alzheimer's disease or a  
149 related form of dementia for the purpose of accurately  
150 estimating the number of such persons in the state at present  
151 and projected population levels.

152 2. Existing services, resources, and capacity, including,  
153 but not limited to:

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

156 b. Policy requirements and effectiveness for dementia-  
157 specific training for professionals providing care.

158 c. Quality care measures employed by providers of care,  
159 including providers of respite, adult day care, assisted living  
160 facility, skilled nursing facility, and hospice services.

161 d. The capability of public safety workers and law  
162 enforcement officers to respond to persons having Alzheimer's  
163 disease or a related form of dementia, including, but not  
164 limited to, responding to their disappearance, search and  
165 rescue, abuse, elopement, exploitation, or suicide.

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

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

173 g. The adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-  
174 psychiatric units for persons having behavior disorders  
175 associated with Alzheimer's disease or a related form of  
176 dementia.

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

179 i. The level of preparedness of service providers before,  
180 during, and after a catastrophic emergency involving a person  
181 having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia and  
182 their caregivers and families.

183 3. Needed state policies or responses, including, but not  
184 limited to, directions for the provision of clear and  
185 coordinated care, services, and support to persons having  
186 Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia and their  
187 caregivers and families and strategies to address any identified  
188 gaps in the provision of services.

189 (g) Hold public meetings and employ technological means to  
190 gather feedback on the recommendations submitted by persons  
191 having Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia, their  
192 caregivers and families, and the general public. Meetings of the  
193 task force may be held in person without compensation or

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194 reimbursement for travel expenses, by teleconference, or by  
195 other electronic means.

196 (6) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
197 and date-specific recommendations in the form of an Alzheimer's  
198 disease state plan to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of  
199 Representatives, and the President of the Senate no later than  
200 August 1, 2013. The task force shall terminate on the earlier of  
201 the date the report is submitted or August 1, 2013.

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