

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [CS/HB 1065](#)

TITLE: Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative

SPONSOR(S): Nix

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: [SB 398](#) (Burgess)

Committee References

[Human Services](#)

17 Y, 0 N, As CS

[Health Care Budget](#)

[Health & Human Services](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

HB 1065 creates [s. 430.505, F.S.](#) to require the Department of Elder Affairs to contract with a statewide nonprofit organization, with a history of focusing on Alzheimer's disease, to develop and implement an Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative. The Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee is tasked with annually reviewing the initiative and making recommendations to the Department.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

[JUMP TO](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

[BILL HISTORY](#)

ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative

Under current law, the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) and the Department of Health (DOH) both promote awareness of Alzheimer's disease and dementia through various initiatives such as the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Council, the statewide Brain Bus program, Memory Disorder Clinics, the READY Act, and research conducted by the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program. However, many of these programs depend heavily on volunteers, highlighting the need for expanded support and education through national research to better serve the needs of individuals affected with the Alzheimer's disease.

The bill authorizes the DOEA to partner with a statewide nonprofit organization to develop and implement the [Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative](#). The statewide nonprofit organization must have a history of addressing the needs of individuals affected by Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia. This includes providing care, support, research, and offering online resources to caregivers and individuals living with the disease, as well as organizing community-based events. (Section [1](#))

Additionally, the nonprofit organization must possess the organizational capacity to successfully manage and implement a statewide initiative to include collaborating with the appropriate state agencies and private organizations to develop and implement the initiative.

The initiative's purpose is to provide support and information for individuals affected by Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia. It must include the creation of a website and cover topics, such as early detection and diagnosis, risk factor reduction, brain health, promoting healthy aging, and progress in Alzheimer's research, including clinical trials. (Section [1](#))

The initiative will use the DOH's Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Resource Guide and highlight health care provider education in partnership with the Department of Health to improve care and services.

STORAGE NAME: h1065a.HSS

DATE: 4/1/2025

Additionally, outreach will include print, outdoor, and digital advertising, social media platforms, public events, and a statewide mobile in-person program targeting underserved communities. The initiative will provide important information on Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and may provide referrals to the Department of Elder Affairs and details on available community resources.

The Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee is responsible for annually evaluating and providing recommendations to the Department and the Legislature regarding the requirements of future funding for the Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative. (Section [1](#))

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#))

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia-Related Disorders

Dementia is a term used to describe a collection of symptoms that affect memory, cognitive abilities, and social interactions, significantly disrupting daily life. It is not classified as a single disease, but rather a syndrome caused by various underlying conditions. Memory loss is often one of the early indicators of dementia, but it is important to note that not all cases of memory loss equate to dementia. Numerous other factors can lead to memory challenges.¹

Alzheimer's disease stands out as the most prevalent cause of dementia among older adults. However, there are other potential causes, and some dementia-related symptoms can be reversible, depending on the underlying condition.

Dementia symptoms differ according to the cause, but are generally categorized into cognitive and psychological changes.²

Cognitive symptoms include:

- Memory loss;
- Difficulties in communication, trouble with reasoning or problem-solving; and
- Challenges in planning or organizing tasks, poor coordination, and disorientation.

Psychological symptoms may include:

- Personality changes, depression; and
- Anxiety, agitation, paranoia, and hallucinations.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. It is a progressive brain disorder that damages and eventually destroys brain cells, leading to memory loss and changes in the functions of the brain.³ Alzheimer's disease accounts for 60 to 80 percent of dementia cases.⁴ Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disease in which dementia symptoms worsen gradually over time. In the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, memory loss is mild, but in late-stage Alzheimer's, individuals lose the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to their

¹ Mayo Clinic. Dementia., at [Dementia - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic](#). (last visited March 30, 2025).

² *Id.*

³ Alzheimer's Association, *What is Alzheimer's?*, at http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_what_is_alzheimers.asp, at (last visited March 27, 2025).

⁴ *Id.*

environment.⁵ Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer’s disease, but treatments that can temporarily slow the deterioration of the disease.⁶

There are an estimated 6.9 million⁷ people in the United States with Alzheimer’s disease, with 2.67 million of people age 74 or older⁸, and about 200,000 individuals between the age of 30 to 64 years have younger-onset dementia.⁹ By 2060, the number of people aged 65 and older with Alzheimer’s disease in the United States is expected to nearly triple to a projected 13.8 million people.¹⁰ Currently, in Florida there is an estimated 580,000 Floridians living with Alzheimer’s disease.¹¹

Department of Elder Affairs

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs supports the state’s senior population through various programs, including the Dementia Care & Cure Initiative (DCCI), Emergency Home Energy Assistance, and the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). It also oversees Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to ensure seniors and their families have access to comprehensive long-term care information. By collaborating with Florida’s 11 Area Agencies on Aging, 17 memory disorder clinics, and DCCI communities, as well as organizing task forces, the department brings together community leaders and stakeholders to foster education, raise awareness, and promote sensitivity towards individuals affected by dementia.¹²

Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative

In 1985, the [Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative \(ADI\)](#) was established within the Department of Elder Affairs to support individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ARD) by providing essential services that adapt to their evolving needs.¹³ This statewide program provides services to individuals and families affected with the Alzheimer’s disease through its 11 area agencies, including:¹⁴

- Respite care and other support services for caregivers;
- Memory Disorder Clinics; and
- Specialized Alzheimer’s Adult Day Care Centers, which provide specialized services for clients with Alzheimer’s disease.

Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee

The Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Committee was created to address the growing prevalence and challenges associated with Alzheimer’s disease. The 15-member committee, is comprised of state residents with expertise in areas such as research, caregiving, and public safety, who advises the DOEA on legislative, programmatic, and administrative matters. The members of the committee are appointed by the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with staggered four-year terms.¹⁵

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Alzheimer’s Association. 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures. P. 24., at [Alzheimer’s Association 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures](#). (last visited March 27, 2025).

⁸ Alzheimer’s Association. 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures.P.25, at [Alzheimer’s Association 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures](#). (last visited March 27, 2025).

⁹ *Supra* FN 5

¹⁰ Alzheimer’s Association. 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures. P. 34., at [Alzheimer’s Association 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures](#). (last visited March 27, 2025).

¹¹ Alzheimer’s Impact Movement. Florida 2025 Policy Priorities., at [Florida Alzheimer’s Facts and Figures 2024](#). (Last visited, March 27, 2025).

¹²DOEA. 2024 Department Overview., at [Department Overview - DOEA](#). (Last visited, March 30, 2025).

¹³Florida Department of Elder Affairs, *Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative (ADI)*, at <https://elderaffairs.org/programs-services/bureau-of-elder-rights/alzheimers-disease-initiative/> (last visited March 30, 2025).

¹⁴ Florida Department of Elder Affairs. *Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative*, at [Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative \(ADI\) - DOEA](#) (last visited, March 27, 2025).

¹⁵ S. [430.501.F.S.](#)

The committee meets quarterly and submits annual reports on Alzheimer’s policies and state-funded efforts on the disease, clinical care, institutional, and home and community-based programs. Additionally, every three years, the committee reviews the Alzheimer’s disease state plan, which is used to evaluate programs and services provided and the current and future impact of Alzheimer’s disease and the related forms of dementia on the state.¹⁶

Memory Disorder Clinics

Memory Disorder Clinics (MDCs) in Florida were established as part of the state's ADI, to address the growing prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. These clinics were designed to provide comprehensive diagnostic and referral services for individuals exhibiting symptoms of ADRD. Over the years, the program has expanded, with 17 state-funded clinics now operating across Florida. These clinics not only focus on diagnosis and treatment, but also research and the development of caregiver training.¹⁷

The clinics play a role in supporting individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. They offer a range of services, including memory screenings, in-depth diagnostic evaluations, and personalized treatment plans. MDCs provide educational resources, counseling, and case management to help families navigate the challenges of caregiving.¹⁸

Section [430.502\(1\), F.S.](#), designates 17 memory disorder clinics that provide comprehensive assessments, diagnostic services, and treatment to individuals who exhibit symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and related memory disorders. The MDCs operate in 13 distinct service areas.¹⁹

MDC Service Areas and Locations²⁰

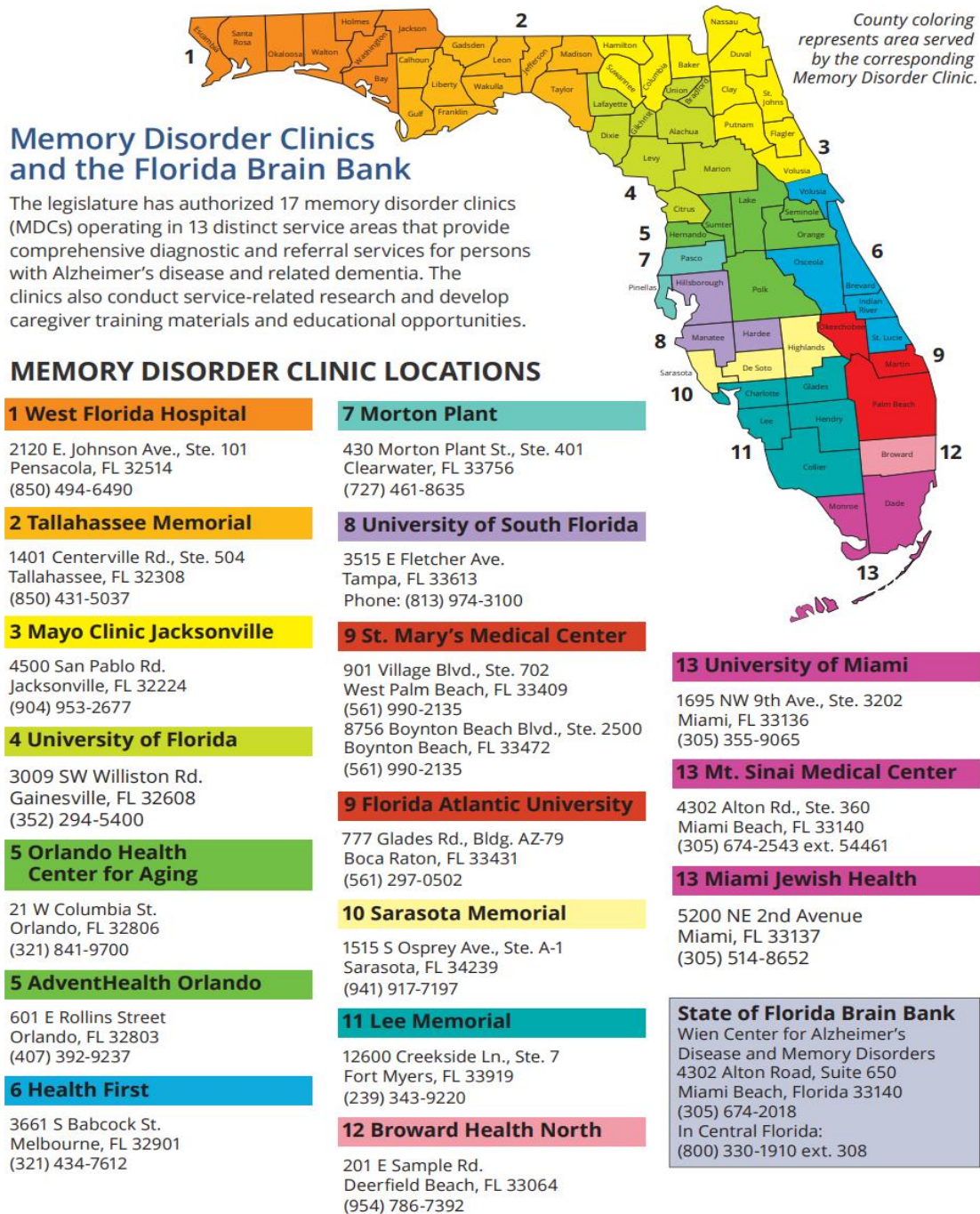
¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Florida Department of Elder Affairs. *Florida Memory Disorder Clinics and Brain Bank. Alzheimer Disease Initiative Report, 2023*, at [MDC-2023-Annual-Report.pdf](#) (last visited March 29, 2025)

¹⁸ Mayo Clinic. Neurology. Memory Disorder Clinics in Florida., at [Memory Disorder Clinic in Florida - Overview - Mayo Clinic](#). (last visited March 31, 2025).

¹⁹DOEA. 2024 Department Overview, p. 36., at [2024 Department Overview](#). (last visited March 31, 2025).

²⁰ *Id.*



Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Resource Guide

The "Alzheimer's Disease and Related Forms of Dementia Education and Training Act"²¹ requires the DOEA to provide general public education about Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia, including the most common forms of dementia; recognizing their signs and symptoms; effective coping strategies, and ways to respond to behavioral and cognitive changes.

Additionally, the education includes guidance on future planning and access to a resource guide to support individuals and their caregivers in managing the challenges associated with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.²²

²¹ S. 430.5025, F.S.

²² Florida Department of Elder Affairs, *Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Resource Guide*, at [SHIPPA9ADRRDResourceGuide_final.pdf](#). (last visited March 29, 2025).

Ramping Up Education of Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia

The "Ramping up Education of Alzheimer’s and Dementia for You (READY) Act" emphasizes the importance of preparing healthcare professionals with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively address Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.²³

The Department of Health uses existing public health and community outreach programs to educate physicians and nursing professionals on the topic. These include the importance of:

- Early detection and timely diagnosis, the use of validated cognitive assessment tools, and the role of Medicare annual wellness visits in identifying dementia;
- Training on Medicare billing codes for care planning and strategies to reduce the risk of cognitive decline; and
- Addressing underserved communities that are at a higher risk of developing these conditions, by ensuring access to education and resources.

The READY Act aims to enhance the quality of care and support for individuals affected by Alzheimer’s and dementia.

BILL HISTORY				
COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Human Services Subcommittee	17 Y, 0 N, As CS	4/1/2025	Mitz	Aderibigbe
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amends references to Department of Elder Affairs to Department of Elderly Affairs.• Corrects a reference to Department of Elder Affairs to the Department of Health.• Requires the Alzheimer’s Disease Advisory Council to evaluate and make recommendations concerning the need for future funding.			
Health Care Budget Subcommittee				
Health & Human Services Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.

²³ Florida Department of Health. *Project Ready. Resources for Healthcare Professionals*, at [Project READY, Resources for Healthcare Professionals | Florida Department of Health](#). (last visited March 29, 2025).