

1 HB549
2 200112-2
3 By Representatives Hall, Kitchens, Brown (K), Collins, Estes,
4 Moore (P), Coleman and Morris
5 RFD: State Government
6 First Read: 02-MAY-19

SYNOPSIS: Existing law requires the Department of Mental Health to provide education and services regarding care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or related diseases to those individuals, their families, and the general public.

This bill would require the Department of Public Health to provide education and services regarding care of individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or related diseases to those individuals, their families, and the general public, would remove the responsibility and authority to do so from the Department of Mental Health, and would provide for funding.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 Relating to public health; to require the Department
2 of Public Health to provide education and services regarding
3 care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or
4 related diseases to those individuals, their families, and the
5 general public; to repeal Sections 22-50-70, 22-50-71,
6 22-50-72, 22-50-73, and 22-50-74, Code of Alabama 1975, in
7 order to remove the responsibility and authority to do so from
8 the Department of Mental Health; and to provide for funding.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

10 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
11 as the Dementia Education and Training Act.

12 Section 2. The purposes of this act are:

13 (1) To enable Alabamians with Alzheimer's disease,
14 dementia, or related diseases to live with dignity in their
15 homes or community for as long as possible.

16 (2) To develop an array of services that follows
17 individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or related
18 diseases and maintains their independence in the community.

19 (3) To provide appropriate services for Alabamians
20 with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or related diseases
21 residing in both rural and urban settings.

22 (4) To emphasize and implement cost-efficient,
23 low-technology, high-yield services that can currently benefit
24 thousands of Alabama citizens.

25 (5) To allow Alabamians to pay for services based on
26 their individual resources.

1 Section 3. (a) Subject to Section 5, the Department
2 of Public Health shall develop educational programs and an
3 array of services concerning Alzheimer's disease, dementia,
4 and related diseases. These programs and services shall be
5 offered to individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or
6 related diseases, the families of these individuals, and the
7 general public.

8 (b) (1) The department shall provide instructors to
9 train and provide support to each of the following:

10 a. Members of the families of individuals with
11 Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or similar diseases.

12 b. Health care providers who provide care for
13 individuals with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or similar
14 diseases at the home of the individual or a member of the
15 family of the individual, or a similar residential location.

16 c. Other caregivers who provide care for individuals
17 with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or similar diseases at the
18 home of the affected individual or a member of the family of
19 the individual, or similar residential location.

20 (2) These instructors shall provide technical
21 assistance, training, support, and advice that will accomplish
22 both of the following:

23 a. Encourage the providing of long-term care for
24 such individuals in the home of the individual, or a member of
25 the family of the individual, or a similar residential
26 location.

1 b. Reduce health care costs to the state, the family
2 of the affected individual, and health care facilities.

3 Section 4. The Department of Public Health shall
4 adopt rules to implement this act.

5 Section 5. (a) The Legislature shall appropriate
6 sufficient sums from the Education Trust Fund for each of the
7 four fiscal years commencing with the fiscal year ending
8 September 30, 2019, to establish and implement the
9 requirements of this act. Thereafter, sufficient funding shall
10 be annually appropriated by the Legislature to maintain the
11 programs and services required by this act.

12 (b) The Department of Public Health shall implement
13 the requirements of this act to the extent funding is
14 provided.

15 (c) The department may accept gifts, grants, and
16 donations offered in support of the services established by
17 this act.

18 (d) The department may assess reasonable fees from
19 recipients of the services provided by this act, if the
20 recipient is able to pay for the services. If the recipient is
21 able to pay a portion of a fee, the department shall collect
22 that portion from the recipient. All fees collected shall be
23 used by the department for the purposes of this act.

24 Section 6. Sections 22-50-70, 22-50-71, 22-50-72,
25 22-50-73, and 22-50-74, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to
26 domestic education and training, are repealed.

1 Section 7. This act shall become effective on the
2 first day of the third month following its passage and
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.