

1 SB499  
2 115755-2  
3 By Senators Figures, Smitherman, Beason, Dixon, Mitchell,  
4 Bedford, Little (Z), Ross, Penn, Dunn, Denton, Coleman,  
5 Benefield, Smith, Keahey, Means, Little (T), Sanford,  
6 Waggoner, Marsh, Orr, Barron, Pittman, and Sanders  
7 RFD: Health  
8 First Read: 04-MAR-10

8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create a task force to  
9 assess the current and future impact of dementia  
10 such as Alzheimer's disease on the residents of  
11 Alabama, would provide for its membership, would  
12 provide for its duties and responsibilities, and  
13 would provide for a termination date.

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15 A BILL  
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17 TO BE ENTITLED  
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AN ACT

To create a task force to assess the current and future impact of dementia such as Alzheimer's disease on the residents of Alabama, provide for its membership, provide for its duties and responsibilities, and provide for a termination date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. There is hereby created the Alzheimer's Disease Task Force. The membership of the task force shall consist of the following: The Chair of the House of

Representatives Health Committee, the Chair of the Senate Health Committee, the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, or a designee, the Director of the Department of Public Health, or a designee, the Director of the Department of Senior Services, or a designee, the Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency or a designee, the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources or a designee, and the following members to be appointed by the Governor: One person with Alzheimer's disease, one caregiver of a person with Alzheimer's disease, a representative of the nursing facility industry, a representative of the assisted living industry, a representative of the adult day services industry, a representative of the probate judges association, a representative of the medical care provider industry, an Alzheimer's disease researcher, at least four representatives of community-based Alzheimer family support organizations, and a representative of AARP. Members shall serve without compensation. The membership of the task force shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state. The Governor shall call the first meeting of the task force at which time the members shall elect a chair and vice-chair. The Department of Mental Health shall provide necessary administrative support for the task force.

Section 2. The task force shall assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias on the residents of Alabama, shall examine the existing

1 long-term care industries, services, health care manpower, and  
2 resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's  
3 disease, their families, and caregivers, and shall develop a  
4 strategy to mobilize a state response to the crisis produced  
5 by dementia such as Alzheimer's disease.

6 Section 3. The task force shall include an  
7 examination of the following in its assessment and  
8 recommendations:

9 (1) Trends in state Alzheimer's disease population  
10 and needs, including the changing population with dementia,  
11 including, but not limited to, the following:

12 a. The state role in long-term care, family  
13 caregiver support, and assistance to persons with early-stage  
14 and early onset of Alzheimer's disease.

15 b. The state policy regarding persons with dementia  
16 such as Alzheimer's disease.

17 (2) Existing services, resources, and capacity,  
18 including, but not limited to, the following:

19 a. Type, cost, and availability of dementia  
20 services.

21 b. Dementia-specific training requirements for  
22 long-term care staff.

23 c. Quality care measures for residential care  
24 facilities.

25 d. Capacity of public safety and law enforcement to  
26 respond to persons with dementia such as Alzheimer's disease.

e. Availability of home-based and community-based resources for persons with dementias such as Alzheimer's disease and respite care to assist families.

f. Inventory of long-term care dementia care units for persons with significant behavioral problems.

g. Adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-psychiatric units for persons with behavior disorders associated with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

h. Adequacy of community hospitals to provide appropriate health services to persons with dementia.

- i. Adequacy of the probate system to approve and monitor guardians for persons with dementia.

j. Adequacy of existing resources within the criminal justice system to protect the civil and financial rights of persons with dementia.

k. Availability of appropriate resources for persons under the age of 60 with dementia.

1. Availability of memory screening service for early detection and treatment.

- m. Availability of dementia prevention programs.
- n. Assisted living residential options for persons with dementia.

- o. State support of Alzheimer's disease research through universities and other resources.

p. Examine health care disparities for minority populations with dementia.

(3) Needed state policies or responses, including, but not limited to, directions for the provision of clear and coordinated services and supports to persons and families living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and strategies to address any identified gaps in services.

Section 4. (a) The task force shall examine the level of integration of efforts by responsible state and county agencies to address current and future challenges to good care, including the state university system's capacity to produce critical health care professionals.

(b) The task force shall hold public meetings and utilize technological means, such as web casts, to gather feedback on the recommendations from the general public and from persons and families affected by Alzheimer's disease.

(c) The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature in the form of a State Alzheimer's Disease Plan no later than March 1, 2011, at which time the task force shall terminate.

Section 5. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.