

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

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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.

14
15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT
18

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

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

25 Section 2. The task force shall assess the current
26 and future impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
27 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 l. Availability of memory screening service for
20 early detection and treatment.

21 m. Availability of dementia prevention programs.

22 n. Assisted living residential options for persons
23 with dementia.

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

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

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

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

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

15 (c) The task force shall submit its findings and
16 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature in the
17 form of a State Alzheimer's Disease Plan no later than March
18 1, 2011, at which time the task force shall terminate.

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