

1 HR499
2 187108-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 17-MAY-17

8 RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS
9 TRAINING.

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11 WHEREAS, of the estimated 5.5 million Americans
12 living with Alzheimers dementia in 2017, an estimated 5.3
13 million are age 65 and older and approximately 200,000
14 individuals are under the age of 65 and have younger-onset
15 Alzheimer's; and

16 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's dementia is the sixth-leading
17 cause of death in the United States and is the only cause of
18 death of the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured or, even
19 slowed; and

20 WHEREAS, as Alzheimer's dementia progresses,
21 individuals may experience changes in personality and
22 behavior, anxiety, suspiciousness, or agitation, as well as
23 delusions or hallucinations, and may lose their ability to
24 recognize familiar places and faces, remember their names or
25 addresses, and may unknowingly place themselves and others in
26 dangerous situations; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical service providers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters are called upon to respond to or interact with persons displaying behaviors associated with dementia under a variety of everyday circumstances and must be prepared to handle the challenges facing their citizens with dementia; and

WHEREAS, effective ways to mitigate an encounter between emergency medical service providers, law enforcement officers, or firefighters and a person living with Alzheimer's dementia includes recognizing the signs of dementia disease, learning best practices in approaching and communicating with persons who have dementia, and being aware of situations where an emergency medical provider, law enforcement officer, or firefighter might encounter individuals with dementia along with effective ways to respond during those interactions; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia awareness training provides emergency medical service providers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters with effective response options; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC), the Alabama Department of Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services (ADPH-OEMS), and the Alabama Fire College and Personnel Standards Commission (AFCPSC) recognizes that their members could increase their awareness and response options through training on Alzheimer's disease or related dementia; and

1 WHEREAS, APOSTC, ADPH-OEMS, and AFCPSC develop and
2 implement the training curriculum for emergency medical
3 service providers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters
4 in their prospective training academies and has expressed a
5 willingness to add Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
6 awareness as an element of the basic training curriculum for
7 all newly certified emergency medical service providers, law
8 enforcement officers, and firefighters; and

9 WHEREAS, APOSTC, ADHP-OEMS, and AFCPSC consider
10 Alzheimer's disease and related dementia awareness important
11 to the training of emergency medical service providers, law
12 enforcement officers, firefighters and desire to promote
13 additional training of those in the field to ensure safety of
14 all persons; now therefore,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
16 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Alabama Peace Officers'
17 Standards and Training Commission, the Alabama Department of
18 Public Health Office of Emergency Medical Services and the
19 Alabama Fire College Personnel Standards Commission are
20 congratulated on their willingness to recognize the importance
21 and value of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia
22 awareness training; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Alzheimer's disease and
24 related dementia awareness training that will help emergency
25 medical providers, law enforcement, and firefighters gain a
26 better understanding of common behaviors, learn strategies and
27 tactics for successful interactions, and more effectively and

1 efficiently respond to common calls involving a person with
2 Alzheimer's disease or another dementia may be included as an
3 element of the basic academy certification training and made
4 available for in-service training or as a part of annual
5 continuing education requirements.