

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1673

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

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District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

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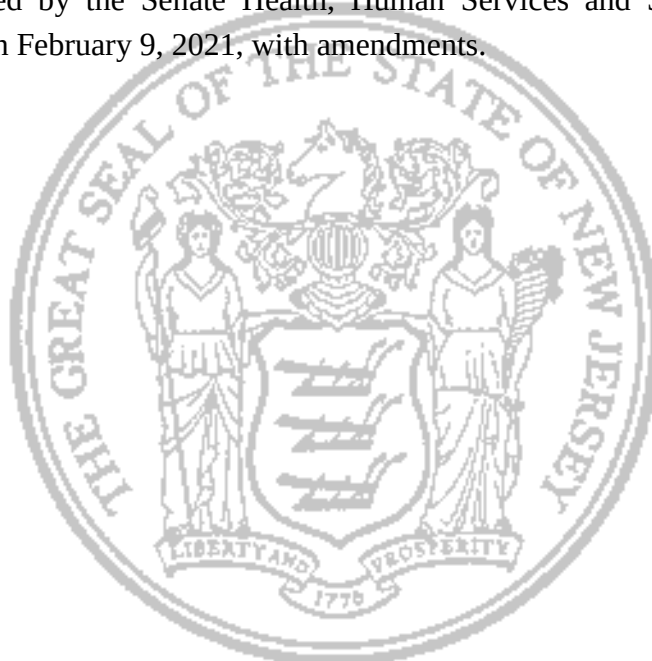
Senators Diegnan, Holzapfel and O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to establish Alzheimer's disease public awareness campaign.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on February 9, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning Alzheimer's disease and supplementing Title
2 ¹[26] 30¹ of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
8 "Alzheimer's Disease Public Awareness and Education Act."

9
10 2^{1,1} The Legislature finds and declares that:

11 a. Alzheimer's ¹disease¹ is a progressive brain disorder that
12 damages and eventually destroys brain cells, leading to diminished
13 memory, thinking, and other brain functions.

14 b. The visible symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are often
15 mistaken to be a normal part of aging.

16 c. Many people with the disease encounter precarious personal
17 and legal situations due to their diminished brain function.

18 d. Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous emotional,
19 psychological, financial, and physical toll on the individual,
20 caregivers, and families.

21 e. It has been estimated that 5.8 million Americans are living
22 with Alzheimer's disease, with that number expected to grow to 14
23 million by 2050.

24 f. There are currently no medicines that are effective in the
25 treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

26 g. Alzheimer's disease and ¹[other dementias] related
27 disorders or other forms of dementia cost¹ the nation \$290 billion
28 per year ^{1,1} which ¹cost¹ could rise to \$1.1 trillion by 2050;

29 h. Increased public awareness and education are needed among
30 health care, social services, judicial, law enforcement, and
31 emergency medical services personnel in order to better respond to
32 the needs of ¹[Alzheimer's disease]¹ patients ¹living with
33 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders or other forms of
34 dementia¹, their caregivers, and ¹their¹ families.

35 i. It is imperative for New Jersey to commit itself to actively
36 support public awareness and education efforts throughout the State
37 in order to better meet the needs of its citizens who are suffering
38 from ¹or affected by¹ Alzheimer's disease.

39
40 3. As used in this act:

41 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of ¹[Health] Human
42 Services¹.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted February 9, 2021.

1 “Department” means the Department of **‘[Health] Human**
2 **Services**¹ .

3 “Program” means the Alzheimer's disease public awareness and
4 education program established pursuant to this act.

5
6 4. The commissioner, subject to available funds, shall establish
7 an Alzheimer's disease public awareness and education program.

8 a. The purpose of the program shall be to promote public
9 awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the value of early detection
10 and possible treatments, including the benefits and risks of those
11 treatments. The department may accept for that purpose any grant
12 of monies, services, or property from the federal government, an
13 organization, or a medical school.

14 b. The program shall include the following:

15 (1) Development of a public campaign to promote Alzheimer's
16 disease awareness and education, including, but not limited to, the
17 following subjects:

18 (a) the **‘[cause and]’** nature **‘, symptoms, and warning signs’** of
19 the disease;

20 (b) lifestyle issues relating to how individuals and families cope
21 with Alzheimer's disease, including, but not limited to, diet and
22 physical exercise;

23 (c) environmental safety and injury prevention;

24 (d) availability of Alzheimer's disease diagnostic and treatment
25 services in the community; and

26 **‘[(f)] (e)’** cognitive aging and the benefits of early detection
27 and diagnosis.

28 (2) Development of educational materials to be made available
29 through local boards of health, physicians, hospitals, and clinics;
30 **and**¹

31 (3) Development of educational programs for judicial staff,
32 police officers, fire fighters, and social services and emergency
33 medical service providers, to assist them in recognizing the
34 symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and understanding how to respond
35 to the needs of persons with the disease in the course of performing
36 their duties **‘[’**;

37 (4) Development and maintenance of a list of current providers
38 of services for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.
39 Dissemination of the list shall be accompanied by a description of
40 diagnostic procedures and a statement about the current status of
41 Alzheimer's disease research and treatment. The statement shall
42 indicate that the department does not endorse specific Alzheimer's
43 disease centers in this State; and

44 (5) Continuation of New Jersey’s Behavioral Risk Factor
45 Survey**’**¹

1 5. The department, in consultation with the Greater New Jersey
2 Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, shall prepare and make
3 available on the department's Internet website in English and
4 Spanish, and in a manner that is easily understandable by the
5 general public, information about the symptoms and treatment of
6 Alzheimer's disease and any other information that the
7 commissioner deems necessary.

8
9 6. The Commissioner of '【Health】 Human Services'¹, pursuant
10 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
11 1 et seq.), may adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the
12 purposes of this act.

13
14 7. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following
15 enactment, except that the Commissioner of '【Health】 Human
16 Services'¹ may take such anticipatory administrative action in
17 advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of the act.