

1 SB499
2 115755-3
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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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

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

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

17 Section 1. There is hereby created the Alzheimer's
18 Disease Task Force. The membership of the task force shall
19 consist of the following: The Chair of the House of
20 Representatives Health Committee, the Chair of the Senate
21 Health Committee, the Commissioner of the Department of Mental
22 Health, or a designee, the Director of the Department of
23 Public Health, or a designee, the Director of the Department
24 of Senior Services, or a designee, the Commissioner of the
25 Alabama Medicaid Agency or a designee, the Commissioner of the
26 Department of Human Resources or a designee, two
27 representatives of the medical profession appointed by the

1 Medical Association of the State of Alabama, two
2 representatives of the State Board of Health appointed by the
3 State Board of Health, and the following members to be
4 appointed as follows: One person with Alzheimer's disease, one
5 caregiver of a person with Alzheimer's disease, a
6 representative of the nursing facility industry, a
7 representative of the assisted living industry, appointed by
8 the Governor; a representative of the adult day services
9 industry, a representative of the probate judges association,
10 a representative of the medical care provider industry,
11 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; an Alzheimer's disease
12 researcher, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives; one representative of community-based
14 Alzheimer family support organizations, appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and one member
16 representative of community-based Alzheimer family support
17 organizations appointed by the Speaker Pro Tempore; and a
18 representative of AARP appointed by the Speaker Pro Tempore.
19 Members shall serve without compensation. The membership of
20 the task force shall be inclusive and reflect the racial,
21 gender, geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the
22 state. The Governor shall call the first meeting of the task
23 force at which time the members shall elect a chair and
24 vice-chair. The Department of Mental Health shall provide
25 necessary administrative support for the task force.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 d. Capacity of public safety and law enforcement to
27 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. The recommendations of the task force
20 shall not be considered a medical protocol, guideline, or
21 standard of care for the treatment of any disease or
22 condition.

23 Section 6. This act shall become effective
24 immediately following its passage and approval by the
25 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Health	04-MAR-10
Read for the second time and placed on the calen- dar 1 amendment	11-MAR-10
Read for the third time and passed as amended ...	14-APR-10

Yeas 25
Nays 0

McDowell Lee
Secretary