

SENATE BILL 400

P1

5lr1695
CF HB 572

By: **Senators Pugh, Bates, Benson, Eckardt, Feldman, Guzzone, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, Middleton, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Peters, Reilly, Young, and Ready**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Commemorative Months – Alzheimer’s and Brain**
3 **Awareness Month**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain month as
5 Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month and to urge the Department of Health and
6 Mental Hygiene and the Department of Aging, in conjunction with certain entities,
7 to properly observe Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month with appropriate
8 programs, ceremonies, and activities, including certain summits and updates; and
9 generally relating to Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month.

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – General Provisions
12 Section 7–504 through 7–506, respectively
13 to be Section 7–505 through 7–507, respectively
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Volume)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – General Provisions
18 Section 7–504
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2014 Volume)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Preamble

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative brain disorder, tragically robs individuals of their memories and leads to progressive mental and physical impairments; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, the ninth-leading cause of death in Maryland, and is the only cause of death in the top ten that has no cure, no treatment, and no way to slow its progression; and

WHEREAS, More than 5,000,000 people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's disease, including 97,000 Marylanders; and

WHEREAS, The cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's disease in the United States exceeds \$200 billion per year, and those costs are expected to rise dramatically with the increase in the numbers of older people in the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, There are over 286,000 dedicated caregivers in Maryland who provide unpaid care at home valued at more than \$4 billion; and

WHEREAS, Medicare and most private health insurance do not cover the long-term services and support that most people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia need; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer's disease indirectly costs businesses up to \$37 billion a year in lost productivity for employees who miss work or leave their jobs to provide care for a relative; and

WHEREAS, Researchers in Maryland and around the world continue their efforts to develop scientific breakthroughs that could one day bring about a world without Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and to honor all the caregivers who support and care for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7-504 through 7-506, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-505 through 7-507, respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – General Provisions**7-504.**

1 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM JUNE AS ALZHEIMER’S**
2 **AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH IN RECOGNITION OF ALL MARYLANDERS,**
3 **INCLUDING FAMILY CAREGIVERS, WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY ALZHEIMER’S**
4 **DISEASE AND OTHER BRAIN–RELATED DISEASES.**

5 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND**
6 **MENTAL HYGIENE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH**
7 **RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADVOCACY ENTITIES, TO OBSERVE ALZHEIMER’S**
8 **AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS,**
9 **CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:**

10 **(1) CAREGIVER SUMMITS IN HONOR OF THE LONGEST DAY TEAM**
11 **EVENT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING CAREGIVING NEEDS, CHALLENGES,**
12 **AND BARRIERS; AND**

13 **(2) AS APPROPRIATE, UPDATES FROM THE VIRGINIA I. JONES**
14 **ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS COUNCIL.**

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2015.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.