

2019 -- H 5321

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, Shekarchi, McNamara, Lima, and Serpa

Date Introduced: February 07, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-1 of the General Laws entitled "Department of Health" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-1-59. Alzheimer's disease awareness campaign.**

4 (a) The general assembly finds that Alzheimer's disease and dementia have a substantial
5 negative impact on thousands of Rhode Island residents and results in subsequent loss of
6 productivity, employment and longevity and consequential severe economic loss.

7 (b) The intent of this legislation is to establish a public awareness campaign to reduce
8 stigma and raise public awareness of the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and dementia in
9 order to promote early detection and accurate diagnosis.

10 (c) The director of the department of health shall develop and implement a public
11 awareness campaign which shall provide information to the public to include, but not be limited
12 to:

13 (1) Recognizing the signs and symptoms of cognitive impairments associated with
14 Alzheimer's disease;

15 (2) Available resources for screening and treatment of dementia and Alzheimer's disease;

16 (3) Identification of community-based assistance programs; and

17 (4) The importance of early detection and intervention.

18 (d) The director of the department of health shall make an annual report by September 1
19 to the governor, speaker of the house and president of the senate which shall detail the

1 [composition of the public awareness campaign and which shall provide a detailed summary of](#)
2 [any funds expended to implement and promote the public awareness campaign.](#)

3 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- 1 This act would establish an Alzheimer's disease awareness campaign to be administered
- 2 by the director of the department of health.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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