

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 92 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009  
4

As Engrossed: H1/16/09

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1014

5 By: Representatives D. Creekmore, Allen, M. Burris, B. Wilkins, Breedlove, Gaskill, D. Hutchinson,  
6 Moore, Powers, Reep, J. Roebuck, Saunders, Stewart, *Adcock, Cole, Dunn, Garner, R. Green, Kerr,*  
7 *Lovell, Nickels, Nix, Overbey, Pennartz, Pyle, L. Smith*  
8 By: Senators Horn, Broadway, Faris, P. Malone, T. Smith, *Teague*  
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11 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

12 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TASK FORCE ON THE EFFECT  
13 OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER  
14 PURPOSES.  
15

16 **Subtitle**

17 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TASK FORCE ON  
18 THE EFFECT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN  
19 ARKANSAS.  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
23

24 SECTION 1. Findings.

25 The General Assembly finds that:

26 (1) Alzheimer's disease is a progressive and fatal brain disease  
27 that destroys brain cells and causes problems with memory, thinking, and  
28 behavior;

29 (2) More than five million (5,000,000) Americans now have  
30 Alzheimer's disease;

31 (3) Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and  
32 is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States; and

33 (4) No cure exists for Alzheimer's disease, but treatments for  
34 symptoms used in conjunction with appropriate services and support can  
35 improve the quality of life for those living with the disease.



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2 SECTION 2. Task Force on the Effect of Alzheimer's Disease in Arkansas  
3 -- Created -- Membership.

4 (a) There is created the Task Force on the Effect of Alzheimer's  
5 Disease in Arkansas to consist of *seventeen (17)* members as follows:

6 (1) Four (4) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
7 Representatives as follows:

8 (A) One (1) member of the House of Representatives;

9 (B) One (1) member who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's  
10 disease;

11 (C) One (1) member to represent the health care provider  
12 community; and

13 (D) One (1) member to represent the adult day services  
14 industry;

15 (2) Four (4) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of  
16 the Senate as follows:

17 (A) One (1) member of the Senate;

18 (B) One (1) member who is a paid caregiver of a person  
19 with Alzheimer's disease;

20 (C) One (1) member to represent the assisted living  
21 industry; and

22 (D) One (1) member who is a scientist who specializes in  
23 Alzheimer's research;

24 (3) *Four (4)* members appointed by the Governor as follows:

25 (A) One (1) member who is a family member of a person  
26 living with Alzheimer's disease or other form of dementia;

27 (B) One (1) member to represent the nursing facility  
28 industry;

29 (C) One (1) member who is a person active in the state  
30 chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; and

31 (D) *One (1) member who is a person active in the state*  
32 *chapter of Alzheimer's Arkansas Programs and Services; and*

33 (4) *Five (5) members as follows:*

34 (A) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her  
35 designee;

36 (B) The Director of the Department of Human Services or

1 his or her designee;

2 (C) The Director of the Division of Behavioral Health of  
3 the Department of Human Services or his or her designee;

4 (D) The Director of the Arkansas Center for Health  
5 Improvement or his or her designee; and

6 (E) The Director of the Department of Workforce Services  
7 or his or her designee.

8 (b) The members of the task force shall be appointed by June 30, 2009.

9 (c)(1) Members of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of their  
10 appointing authorities.

11 (2) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled by the original  
12 appointing authority.

13 (d)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President  
14 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each designate a co-chair from among the  
15 members of the task force.

16 (2) The cochairs shall jointly call the first meeting of the  
17 task force.

18 (e) A majority vote of the members present is required for any action  
19 of the task force.

20 (f) Task force meetings shall be held in Pulaski County, Arkansas, and  
21 at other locations in the state as the task force shall deem necessary.

22 (g) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff support to  
23 the task force as necessary to assist the task force in the performance of  
24 its duties.

25 (h) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for  
26 expenses and per diem at the same rate and from the same source as provided  
27 by law for members of the General Assembly attending meetings of the interim  
28 committees.

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30 SECTION 3. Duties.

31 (a) The Task Force on the Effect of Alzheimer's Disease in Arkansas  
32 shall:

33 (1) Assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease  
34 and other types of dementia on the residents of the State of Arkansas;

35 (2) Examine the existing industries, services, and resources  
36 addressing the needs of persons living with Alzheimer's disease, their

1 families, and caregivers; and

2 (3) Develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to the  
3 public health crisis created by Alzheimer's disease and other types of  
4 dementia.

5 (b) The task force shall include the following in its assessments and  
6 recommendations:

7 (1) Statewide trends in the number of persons living with  
8 Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia and the needs of those  
9 persons;

10 (2) The state's role in providing long-term care, family  
11 caregiver support, and other forms of assistance to persons with early-stage  
12 and younger onset of Alzheimer's disease;

13 (3) State policy regarding persons with Alzheimer's disease and  
14 developmental disabilities;

15 (4) Existing services, resources, and capacity, including  
16 without limitation:

17 (A) The type, cost, and availability of dementia services;

18 (B) The dementia-specific training requirements for long-  
19 term care staff;

20 (C) Quality care measures for residential care facilities;

21 (D) The capacity of public safety and law enforcement  
22 agencies to respond to persons with Alzheimer's disease;

23 (E) The availability of home-based and community-based  
24 resources for persons with Alzheimer's disease, including the availability of  
25 respite care for families;

26 (F) An inventory of long-term care dementia care units;

27 (G) The adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-  
28 psychiatric units for persons with behavioral disorders associated with  
29 Alzheimer's and related dementia;

30 (H) The assisted living residential options for persons  
31 with dementia; and

32 (I) State support for Alzheimer's research; and

33 (5) Needed state policies or responses, including without  
34 limitation:

35 (A) Directions for the provision of clear and coordinated  
36 services and supports for persons and families living with Alzheimer's and

1 related disorders; and

2 (B) Strategies for addressing identified gaps in services.

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4 SECTION 4. Reports.

5 (a) The Task Force on the Effect of Alzheimer's Disease in Arkansas  
6 shall present a draft of assessments and recommendations for meeting the  
7 Alzheimer's disease needs in the State of Arkansas to the House and Senate  
8 Interim Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor on or before October  
9 25, 2010.

10 (b) The task force shall issue a final report of its assessments and  
11 recommendations for meeting the Alzheimer's disease needs in the State of  
12 Arkansas to the House and Senate Interim Committees on Public Health,  
13 Welfare, and Labor and the Governor on or before January 15, 2011.

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15 SECTION 5. The Task Force on the Effect of Alzheimer's Disease in  
16 Arkansas shall expire on January 15, 2011.

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18 */s/ D. Creekmore*

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20 **APPROVED: 2/11/2009**