

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1843

5 By: Representative B. Wilkins  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ALZHEIMER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL;  
9 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
10  
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## Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ALZHEIMER'S  
13 ADVISORY COUNCIL.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 8 is amended to add an  
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:

21 Subchapter 6 – Alzheimer's Advisory Council  
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23 20-8-601. Findings.

24 The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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

32 (4) No cure exists for Alzheimer's disease, but treatments for  
33 symptoms used in conjunction with appropriate services and support can  
34 improve the quality of life for those living with the disease.  
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36 20-8-602. Alzheimer's Advisory Council – Creation – Membership.



1       (a) There is created the Alzheimer's Advisory Council to consist of  
2 seventeen (17) members as follows:

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

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

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

8                   (C) One (1) member to represent the health care provider  
9 community; and

10                   (D) One (1) member to represent the adult day services  
11 industry;

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

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

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

17                   (C) One (1) member to represent the assisted living  
18 industry; and

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

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

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

24                   (B) One (1) member to represent the nursing facility  
25 industry;

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

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

30           (4) Five (5) members as follows:

31                   (A) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her  
32 designee;

33                   (B) The Director of the Department of Human Services or  
34 his or her designee;

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

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

3                   (E) The Director of the Department of Workforce Services  
 4 or his or her designee.

5           (b) Members of the council shall be appointed by September 1, 2011.

6           (c)(1) Members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of their  
 7 appointing authorities.

8                   (2) A vacancy on the council shall be filled by the original  
 9 appointing authority.

10           (d)(1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President  
 11 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall each designate a cochair from among the  
 12 members of the council.

13                   (2) The cochairs shall jointly call the first meeting of the  
 14 council.

15           (e)(1) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a  
 16 quorum.

17                   (2) A majority vote of the members present is required for any  
 18 action of the council.

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

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

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

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 29           20-8-603. Duties.

30           (a) The Alzheimer's Advisory Council shall:

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

33                   (2) Examine the existing industries, services, and resources  
 34 addressing the needs of persons living with Alzheimer's disease, their  
 35 families, and caregivers; and

36                   (3) Develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to the

1 public health crisis created by Alzheimer’s disease and other types of  
 2 dementia.

3 (b) The council shall include the following in its assessments and  
 4 recommendations:

5 (1) Statewide trends in the number of persons living with  
 6 Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia and the needs of those  
 7 persons;

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

11 (3) State policy regarding persons with Alzheimer’s disease and  
 12 developmental disabilities;

13 (4) Existing services, resources, and capacity, including  
 14 without limitation:

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

16 (B) The dementia-specific training requirements for long-  
 17 term care staff;

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

19 (D) The capacity of public safety and law enforcement  
 20 agencies to respond to persons with Alzheimer’s disease;

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

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

25 (G) The adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric  
 26 psychiatric units for persons with behavioral disorders associated with  
 27 Alzheimer’s and related dementia;

28 (H) The assisted living residential options for persons  
 29 with dementia; and

30 (I) State support for Alzheimer’s research; and

31 (5) Needed state policies or responses, including without  
 32 limitation:

33 (A) Directions for the provision of clear and coordinated  
 34 services and supports for persons and families living with Alzheimer’s and  
 35 related disorders; and

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

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20-8-604. Reports.

The Alzheimer's Advisory Council shall present a draft of assessments and recommendations for meeting the Alzheimer's disease needs in the State of Arkansas to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor on or before October 1 of each year.