

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.

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1014

4
5 By: Representatives D. Creekmore, Allen, M. Burris, B. Wilkins, Breedlove, Gaskill, D. Hutchinson,
6 Moore, Powers, Reep, J. Roebuck, Saunders, Stewart
7 By: Senators Horn, Broadway, Faris, P. Malone, T. Smith

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

16 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TASK FORCE ON
17 THE EFFECT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN
18 ARKANSAS.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. 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.

36 SECTION 2. Task Force on the Effect of Alzheimer's Disease in Arkansas



1 -- Created -- Membership.

2 (a) There is created the Task Force on the Effect of Alzheimer's
 3 Disease in Arkansas to consist of sixteen (16) members as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (3) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (D) The Director of the Arkansas Center for Health

1 Improvement or his or her designee; and

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

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

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

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

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

12 (2) The cochairs shall jointly call the first meeting of the
 13 task force.

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

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

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

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

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 26 SECTION 3. Duties.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (4) Existing services, resources, and capacity, including
 12 without limitation:

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

14 (B) The dementia-specific training requirements for long-
 15 term care staff;

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

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

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

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

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

26 (H) The assisted living residential options for persons
 27 with dementia; and

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

29 (5) Needed state policies or responses, including without
 30 limitation:

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

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

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 36 SECTION 4. Reports.

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

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

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

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