

2022 -- H 8258

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LC005770
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM TO ADDRESS
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Ackerman, McNamara, Hull, Diaz, and
Blazejewski

Date Introduced: May 18, 2022

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

(Dept. of Health/Lieutenant Governor)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 23-1.7-2, 23-1.7-4, 23-1.7-5 and 23-1.7-6 of the General Laws in
2 Chapter 23-1.7 entitled "Rhode Island Program to Address Alzheimer's Disease" are hereby
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **23-1.7-2. Creation of advisory council.**

5 (a) There is hereby established a council to be called the "Advisory Council on Alzheimer's
6 Disease ~~Research and Treatment~~ and related disorders." The advisory council shall consist of
7 ~~thirteen (13)~~ nineteen (19) members to be composed as follows: the lieutenant governor, or
8 designee; the director of the department of health, or designee; the director of the office of healthy
9 aging, or designee; the chairperson of the long-term care coordinating council; three (3) members
10 appointed by the lieutenant governor, one of whom shall be appointed solely by the lieutenant
11 governor without reference to any list; one of whom shall be appointed and selected from a list of
12 five (5) names of individuals submitted by the speaker of the house, with two (2) individuals having
13 experience as caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and reflecting
14 diverse backgrounds, including diversity in race and ethnicity; one of whom shall be appointed and
15 selected from a list of five (5) names of individuals submitted by the president of the senate, with
16 two (2) individuals having experience as caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related
17 disorders and reflecting diverse backgrounds, including race and ethnicity; one member appointed
18 by the speaker of the house; one member appointed by the president of the senate; and ~~seven (7)~~

1 [ten \(10\)](#) members appointed by the governor. The members appointed by the governor shall include
2 one member who is an Alzheimer's disease patient advocate; one member who is an Alzheimer's
3 disease caregiver; one member who is a healthcare provider; one member who is a researcher with
4 Alzheimer's-related expertise in basic, translational, clinical, or drug-development science; one
5 member who is a representative from an Alzheimer's disease organization that funds research and
6 has demonstrated experience in care and patient services; one member from an Alzheimer's
7 advocacy organization that provides services to families and professionals, including information
8 and referrals, support groups, care consultation, education, and safety services; [one member who](#)
9 [is a representative from an organization focused on Alzheimer's workforce development; one](#)
10 [member who is a representative from the long-term care industry; one member who will represent](#)
11 [the adult primary care community](#); and one member who is a representative of a healthcare insurer.
12 Advisory council members shall select their own chairperson. ~~Seven (7)~~ [Ten \(10\)](#) members shall
13 constitute a quorum.

14 (b) The member appointed by the speaker of the house,, the member appointed by the
15 president of the senate, and three (3) members appointed by the governor shall be initially appointed
16 for a term to expire July 1, 2020, and four (4) members to be appointed by the governor shall be
17 initially appointed for a term to expire July 1, 2021. After the initial term, the appointed members
18 shall serve two-year (2) terms, until their successor is appointed.

19 **23-1.7-4. Assessment protocol.**

20 (a) The director of the department of health shall ~~establish and~~ publish [on their website](#) an
21 Alzheimer's disease assessment protocol specifically focused on recognizing the signs and
22 symptoms of cognitive impairments, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease and
23 appropriate resource information for effective medical screening, investigation, and service
24 planning.

25 (b) The director of the department of health shall make available upon request a copy of
26 the assessment protocol to protective-services caseworkers, healthcare professionals, and members
27 of the public.

28 (c) Protective-services caseworkers assigned to or employed by the office of healthy aging
29 shall be familiar with the information contained in the assessment protocol.

30 **23-1.7-5. Medical professional training.**

31 (a) All physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 37 of title 5, and nurses licensed pursuant
32 to chapter 34 of title 5, shall, no later than October 1, ~~2021~~ [2023](#), complete a one-time course of
33 training consisting of a minimum of one hour of instruction on the diagnosis, treatment, and care
34 of patients with cognitive impairments including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease and

1 ~~dementia~~ related disorders.

2 (b) The department of health shall promulgate rules to implement the training requirement
3 of subsection (a).

4 **23-1.7-6. Healthcare facility plan.**

5 (a) Every healthcare facility as defined in § 23-17-2 shall, not later than October 1, ~~2021~~
6 2023, complete and implement an operational plan for the recognition and management of patients
7 with Alzheimer's disease ~~or dementia~~ and related disorders.

8 (b) The department of health shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the
9 operational plan requirements of subsection (a).

10 (c) The director of the department of health, in consultation with the advisory council on
11 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, shall determine which health care facilities defined in §
12 23-17-2 will be subject to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would amend the composition of the "Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease
2 Research and Treatment" to include six (6) additional members and would rename the council the
3 "Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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