

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1082

**PRINTER NO.** 1830

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

April 19, 2021

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Lewis DelRosso

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 1082 creates a freestanding act to be known as the Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or a Related Disorder Act which establishes an educational program to assist in the early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder.

The bill defines "Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder" as an irreversible and progressive neurological disorder diagnosed by a physician that has all of the following traits: 1) causes cognitive decline and memory impairment, behavioral and psychiatric problems and loss of ability to care for oneself and 2) interferes with work or social activities and requires continuous care or supervision.

The bill requires the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Department of Aging and other public and private groups with expertise in cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, to create educational resources to help the primary care workforce with detection, diagnosis, treatment and care planning referral for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder. The education resources shall include, at a minimum, all the following:

- The importance and value of early detection and timely diagnosis;
- Increasing understanding and awareness of early signs and symptoms of the illness;
- Person-centered care delivery;
- Cultural competency;
- Racial and ethical disparities and inequities in detecting, diagnosing and accessing services and treatment;
- Use of authorized cognitive assessments in annual Medicare wellness visits;
- Sources of clinical practice guidelines and tools; and
- Effective care planning.

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House Bill 1082 also requires the DOH to establish and maintain an Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or a Related Disorder toolkit. The toolkit shall include, at a minimum, all the following:

- Best practices and cognitive assessment tools, including the use of appropriate diagnostics, to assist the primary care workforce in the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and care needed for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder; and
- The educational resources mentioned above for the primary care workforce.

The DOH shall coordinate and integrate the toolkit across health care sectors, including, but not limited to, all the following:

- Managed care programs administered through the Department of Human Services;
- Academic research institutions;
- State medical centers;
- Federally qualified health centers;
- Associations representing hospitals and health systems;
- Organizations representing physicians and medical students in Pennsylvania;
- Organizations representing the advancement of health care and family physicians;
- Organizations representing the advancement of nurse practitioners, health care professionals and health care organizations;
- Organizations representing under-served communities which may be disproportionately impacted by Alzheimer's disease; and
- Any other public or private organization, entity or part of an organization or entity the department deems necessary.

The DOH shall review and update the information in the toolkit, and on the department's publicly accessible internet website, on an annual basis to reflect that the most current and accurate information is available.

The DOH must incorporate information about Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder into its public engagement efforts including on the department's website and as part of existing outreach efforts. The information must include an understanding of cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease or other related disorder; early warning signs; benefits of early detection; importance of discussing cognition with primary care provider; and risk reduction behaviors to slow the onset of cognitive impairment.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Enactment of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The bill requirements on Department of Health can be accomplished with existing staffing and funding levels.