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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2270 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY WATSON, HENNESSEY, BAKER, GINGRICH, MUNDY, CURRY,  
CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON,  
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GRELL, GROVE, HARHART, HARPER, HELM, HESS, HORNAMAN,  
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MILNE, MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, PICKETT, PRESTON, QUINN,  
READSHAW, ROSS, SCAVELLO, STERN, TALLMAN, TAYLOR, TOOHL,  
VEREB, VULAKOVICH AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 19, 2012

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, MARCH  
19, 2012

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AN ACT

1 Establishing the Alzheimer's Disease State Planning Committee  
2 within the Department of Aging; and providing for its powers  
3 and duties.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania  
8 Alzheimer's Disease State Plan Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative findings.

10 The General Assembly finds that:

11 (1) Currently, Alzheimer's disease affects one in 12  
12 Pennsylvania families.

13 (2) To date, 31 states have either published or are in  
14 the process of writing an Alzheimer's disease plan.

15 (3) The Commonwealth needs to establish a planning

1 committee within the Department of Aging to develop a State  
2 Alzheimer's Plan that will serve as a comprehensive blueprint  
3 for how the Commonwealth will address the growing Alzheimer's  
4 crisis.

5 (4) The planning process will charge State agencies,  
6 legislators, residential and community care providers,  
7 professional and family caregivers and persons with  
8 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to work together to  
9 create a plan that addresses the Alzheimer's epidemic with a  
10 thoughtful, integrated and cost-effective approach.

11 Section 3. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
13 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Committee." The Alzheimer's Disease State Planning  
16 Committee established by this act.

17 "Department." The Department of Aging of the Commonwealth.

18 "Secretary." The Secretary of Aging of the Commonwealth.

19 "State plan." The Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease State  
20 Plan.

21 Section 4. Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease State Planning  
22 Committee.

23 (a) Establishment.--The Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease  
24 State Planning Committee is established in the department.

25 (b) Membership.--The committee shall consist of the  
26 following members:

27 (1) The chairman and minority chairman of the Aging and  
28 Youth Committee and the Public Health and Welfare Committee  
29 of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the  
30 Aging and Older Adults Services Committee and the Health

1 Committee of the House of Representatives.

2 (2) One person with Alzheimer's disease.

3 (3) One caregiver of a person with Alzheimer's disease.

4 (4) A representative of the nursing home industry.

5 (5) A representative of the assisted living industry.

6 (6) A representative of the adult day-care services  
7 industry.

8 (7) A representative of the medical care provider  
9 community.

10 (8) An Alzheimer's disease researcher.

11 (9) A representative of a Statewide Alzheimer's  
12 association.

13 (10) The secretary or a designee.

14 (11) A representative from the Department of Health.

15 (12) A representative from the Department of Public  
16 Welfare.

17 (c) Appointments.--Except for members identified under  
18 subsection (b) (1), members of the committee shall be appointed  
19 by the Governor.

20 (d) Chair and administrative support.--The secretary shall  
21 chair the committee and provide necessary administrative support  
22 to the activities of the committee.

23 Section 5. Powers and duties of committee.

24 (a) General rule.--The committee shall meet on a regular  
25 basis and shall have the following powers and duties:

26 (1) To assess the current and future impact of  
27 Alzheimer's disease on residents of this Commonwealth.

28 (2) To examine the existing industries, services and  
29 resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's  
30 disease, their families and caregivers.

1           (3) To develop a strategy to mobilize a State response  
2 to this public health crisis.

3           (4) To include an examination of the following in its  
4 assessment and recommendations:

5           (i) Trends in State Alzheimer's population and  
6 needs, including the changing population with dementia  
7 including, but not limited to:

8           (A) The Commonwealth's role in long-term care,  
9 family caregiver support and assistance to persons  
10 with early-stage and early onset of Alzheimer's  
11 disease.

12           (B) The Commonwealth's policy regarding persons  
13 with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

14           (C) The surveillance of persons with Alzheimer's  
15 disease for purposes of having proper estimates of  
16 the number of persons in this Commonwealth with  
17 Alzheimer's disease.

18           (ii) Existing services, resources and capacity  
19 including, but not limited to:

20           (A) Type, cost and availability of Alzheimer's  
21 and related disorders services.

22           (B) Dementia-specific training requirements for  
23 long-term care staff.

24           (C) Quality care measures for long-term care  
25 facilities.

26           (D) Capacity of public safety and law  
27 enforcement to respond to persons with Alzheimer's  
28 disease.

29           (E) Availability of home and community-based  
30 resources for persons with Alzheimer's disease and

1 respite care to assist families.

2 (F) Inventory of long-term care dementia care  
3 units.

4 (G) Adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-  
5 psychiatric units for persons with behavior disorders  
6 associated with Alzheimer's disease and related  
7 disorders.

8 (H) Assisted living residential options for  
9 persons with dementia.

10 (I) State support of Alzheimer's disease  
11 research through Pennsylvania colleges and  
12 universities and other resources.

13 (iii) Any needed State policies or responses  
14 including, but not limited to, directions for the  
15 provision of clear and coordinated services and supports  
16 to persons and families living with Alzheimer's disease  
17 and related disorders and strategies to address any  
18 identified gaps in services.

19 (b) Public meeting.--The committee shall hold public  
20 meetings and utilize technological means, such as web casts, to  
21 gather feedback on the recommendations from persons and families  
22 affected by Alzheimer's disease and the general public.

23 (c) Report.--The committee shall submit a report on its  
24 findings and date-specific recommendations to the Governor and  
25 the General Assembly in the form of a Pennsylvania Alzheimer's  
26 Disease State Plan no later than one year after the effective  
27 date of this section.

28 Section 6. Expiration.

29 This act shall expire on the date that the report required by  
30 section 5(c) is submitted.

1 Section 7. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect immediately.