
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1082 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY LEWIS DELROSSO, HILL-EVANS, THOMAS, MOUL, FREEMAN,
RYAN, MILLARD, ZIMMERMAN, WHEELAND, DEASY, NEILSON, JOZWIAK
AND GILLEN, APRIL 19, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 19, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing an education program to assist in the early
2 detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other
3 dementias.

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 Early
8 Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease and Other
9 Dementias Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Alzheimer's disease and other dementias." An irreversible
15 and progressive neurological disorder diagnosed by a physician
16 that has all of the following characteristics:

17 (1) The disorder causes cognitive decline and memory
18 impairment, behavioral and psychiatric problems and loss of

1 the ability to care for oneself or a related disorder,
2 including vascular dementia, dementia with lewy bodies,
3 frontotemporal lobar degeneration or mixed dementia.

4 (2) The disorder is severe enough to interfere with work
5 or social activities and requires care or supervision.

6 "Certified registered nurse practitioner." A registered
7 nurse licensed in this Commonwealth who is certified by the
8 State Board of Nursing in a particular clinical specialty area.

9 "Clinical nurse specialist." A registered nurse licensed in
10 this Commonwealth who is certified by the State Board of Nursing
11 as a clinical nurse specialist.

12 "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

13 "Physician." A medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy.

14 "Physician assistant." An individual who is licensed as a
15 physician assistant by the State Board of Medicine.

16 "Primary care workforce." Physicians, physician assistants,
17 certified registered nurse practitioners and clinical nurse
18 specialists delivering health care services to adult patients
19 with the detection, diagnosis, treatment and care planning
20 referral for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other
21 dementias.

22 "Primary care workforce education resources." The resources
23 established in section 3(a) (relating to primary care workforce
24 education resources).

25 "Toolkit." The Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's
26 Disease and Other Dementias toolkit established in section 4(a)
27 (relating to Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's
28 Disease and Other Dementias Toolkit).

29 Section 3. Primary care workforce education resources.

30 The department, in consultation with the Department of Aging

1 and other public or private organizations with expertise in
2 cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias,
3 shall establish education resources to assist the primary care
4 workforce with the detection, diagnosis, treatment and care
5 planning referral for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and
6 other dementias. At a minimum, the primary care workforce
7 education resources shall include all of the following related
8 to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias:

9 (1) The importance of and value of early detection and
10 timely diagnosis.

11 (2) Increasing understanding and awareness of early
12 signs and symptoms.

13 (3) Person-centered care delivery.

14 (4) Cultural competency.

15 (5) Use of validated cognitive assessment tools to
16 detect cognitive decline as part of the annual Medicare
17 Wellness Visit or other annual physical examination.

18 (6) Sources of clinical practice guidelines and tools.

19 (7) Effective care planning, including treatment
20 options, support and services, long-term care options,
21 financial planning, advanced directives and care
22 coordination, at all stages of dementia, including
23 appropriate counseling and referral.

24 Section 4. Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease
25 and Other Dementias toolkit.

26 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish and
27 maintain an Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease
28 and Other Dementias toolkit. The toolkit, at a minimum, shall
29 provide all of the following:

30 (1) Best practices and cognitive assessment tools to

1 assist the primary care workforce in the detection,
2 diagnosis, treatment and care planning for individuals with
3 Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

4 (2) Primary care workforce education resources
5 established in section 3(a) (relating to primary care
6 workforce education resources).

7 (b) Coordination and integration.--The department shall
8 coordinate and integrate the toolkit across health care sectors,
9 including, but not limited to, all of the following:

10 (1) Managed care programs administered through the
11 Department of Human Services.

12 (2) Academic research institutions.

13 (3) State medical centers.

14 (4) Federally qualified health centers.

15 (5) Associations representing hospitals and health
16 systems.

17 (6) Organizations representing physicians and medical
18 students in Pennsylvania.

19 (7) Organizations representing the advancement of health
20 care and family physicians.

21 (8) Organizations representing the advancement of nurse
22 practitioners, health care professionals and health care
23 organizations.

24 (9) Any other public or private organization, entity or
25 part of an organization or entity the department deems
26 necessary.

27 (c) Annual review.--The department shall review and update
28 the information on the toolkit established in subsection (a) to
29 reflect the most current and accurate information available on
30 an annual basis.

1 Section 5. Public awareness.

2 (a) Public information.--The department shall include and
3 make accessible on the department's publicly accessible Internet
4 website information relating to Alzheimer's disease and other
5 dementias information. The information, at a minimum, shall
6 include the following:

7 (1) Understanding cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease
8 and other dementias, including the difference between normal
9 cognitive aging and dementias.

10 (2) Early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and other
11 dementias.

12 (3) The benefits of early detection and diagnosis.

13 (4) Importance of discussing cognition with health care
14 providers and tips on how to do so.

15 (5) Risk reduction behaviors to slow onset of cognitive
16 impairment, particularly among diverse communities who are at
17 greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

18 (b) Existing outreach programs.--The department shall
19 incorporate public information in subsection (a) into existing
20 relevant public health outreach programs administered by the
21 Department to promote understanding and awareness of Alzheimer's
22 disease and other dementias to the general public. Public
23 awareness information shall provide uniform, consistent guidance
24 in nonclinical terms, with an emphasis on cultural relevancy and
25 health literacy.

26 Section 6. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect in 60 days.