

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, GILLEN, SAMUELSON AND COX, APRIL 19, 2021

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 9, 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

1 impairment, behavioral and psychiatric problems and loss of
2 the ability to care for oneself or a related disorder,
3 including vascular dementia, dementia with lewy bodies,
4 frontotemporal lobar degeneration or mixed dementia.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 Section 3. Primary care workforce education resources.

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

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

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

14 (3) Person-centered care delivery.

15 (4) Cultural competency.

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

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

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

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

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

1 (1) Best practices and cognitive assessment tools, <--
2 INCLUDING THE USE OF APPROPRIATE DIAGNOSTICS, to assist the
3 primary care workforce in the detection, diagnosis, treatment
4 and care planning for individuals with Alzheimer's disease
5 and other dementias.

6 (2) Primary care workforce education resources
7 established in section 3(a) ~~(relating to primary care~~ <--
8 ~~workforce education resources)~~.

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

12 (1) Managed care programs administered through the
13 Department of Human Services.

14 (2) Academic research institutions.

15 (3) State medical centers.

16 (4) Federally qualified health centers.

17 (5) Associations representing hospitals and health
18 systems.

19 (6) Organizations representing physicians and medical
20 students in Pennsylvania.

21 (7) Organizations representing the advancement of health
22 care and family physicians.

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

26 (9) ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES <--
27 WHICH MAY BE DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY ALZHEIMER'S
28 DISEASE.

29 ~~(9)~~ (10) Any other public or private organization, <--
30 entity or part of an organization or entity the department

1 deems necessary.

2 (c) Annual review.--The department shall review and update
3 the information on the toolkit established in subsection (a) to
4 reflect the most current and accurate information available on
5 an annual basis.

6 Section 5. Public awareness.

7 (a) Public information.--The department shall include and
8 make accessible on the department's publicly accessible Internet
9 website information relating to Alzheimer's disease and other
10 dementias information. The information, at a minimum, shall
11 include the following:

12 (1) Understanding cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease
13 and other dementias, including the difference between normal
14 cognitive aging and dementias.

15 (2) Early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and other
16 dementias.

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

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

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

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

1 Section 6. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect in 60 days.