

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 AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 15, 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 OR A RELATED DISORDER. <--

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 OR A RELATED DISORDER 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." "ALZHEIMER'S
15 DISEASE OR A RELATED DISORDER." An irreversible and progressive
16 neurological disorder diagnosed by a physician that has all of
17 the following characteristics: <--

1 (1) The disorder causes cognitive decline and memory
2 impairment, behavioral and psychiatric problems and loss of
3 the ability to care for oneself ~~or a related disorder,~~ <--
4 ~~including vascular dementia, dementia with lewy bodies,~~
5 ~~frontotemporal lobar degeneration or mixed dementia.~~

6 (2) The disorder is severe enough to interfere with work
7 or social activities and requires CONTINUOUS care or <--
8 supervision.

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

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

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

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

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

19 "Primary care workforce." Physicians, physician assistants,
20 certified registered nurse practitioners and clinical nurse
21 specialists delivering health care services to adult patients
22 with the detection, diagnosis, treatment and care planning
23 referral for individuals with Alzheimer's disease ~~and other~~ <--
24 ~~dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER. <--

25 "Primary care workforce education resources." The resources
26 established in section 3.

27 "Toolkit." The Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's
28 Disease ~~and Other Dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER toolkit <--
29 established in section 4(a).
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~~ OR A <--
4 RELATED DISORDER, shall establish education resources to assist
5 the primary care workforce with the detection, diagnosis,
6 treatment and care planning referral for individuals with
7 Alzheimer's disease ~~and other dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER. <--
8 At a minimum, the primary care workforce education resources
9 shall include all of the following related to Alzheimer's
10 disease ~~and other dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER: <--
11 (1) The importance of and value of early detection and
12 timely diagnosis.
13 (2) Increasing understanding and awareness of early
14 signs and symptoms.
15 (3) Person-centered care delivery.
16 (4) Cultural competency.
17 (5) RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES AND INEQUITIES IN <--
18 DETECTING, DIAGNOSING AND ACCESSING TREATMENT AND SERVICES.
19 ~~(5)~~ (6) Use of validated cognitive assessment tools to <--
20 detect cognitive decline as part of the annual Medicare
21 Wellness Visit or other annual physical examination.
22 ~~(6)~~ (7) Sources of clinical practice guidelines and <--
23 tools.
24 ~~(7)~~ (8) Effective care planning, including treatment <--
25 options, support and services, long-term care options,
26 financial planning, advanced directives and care
27 coordination, at all stages of dementia, including
28 appropriate counseling and referral.
29 Section 4. Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease
30 ~~and Other Dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER toolkit. <--

1 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish and
2 maintain an Early Detection and Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease
3 ~~and Other Dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER toolkit. The toolkit, <--
4 at a minimum, shall provide all of the following:

5 (1) Best practices and cognitive assessment tools,
6 including the use of appropriate diagnostics, to assist the
7 primary care workforce in the detection, diagnosis, treatment
8 and care planning for individuals with Alzheimer's disease
9 ~~and other dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER. <--

10 (2) Primary care workforce education resources
11 established in section 3.

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

15 (1) Managed care programs administered through the
16 Department of Human Services.

17 (2) Academic research institutions.

18 (3) State medical centers.

19 (4) Federally qualified health centers.

20 (5) Associations representing hospitals and health
21 systems.

22 (6) Organizations representing physicians and medical
23 students in Pennsylvania.

24 (7) Organizations representing the advancement of health
25 care and family physicians.

26 (8) Organizations representing the advancement of nurse
27 practitioners, health care professionals and health care
28 organizations.

29 (9) Organizations representing underserved communities
30 which may be disproportionately impacted by Alzheimer's

1 disease.

2 (10) Any other public or private organization, entity or
3 part of an organization or entity the department deems
4 necessary.

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

9 Section 5. Public awareness.

10 (a) Public information.--The department shall include and
11 make accessible on the department's publicly accessible Internet
12 website information relating to Alzheimer's disease ~~and other~~ <--
13 ~~dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER information. The information, at <--
14 a minimum, shall include the following:

15 (1) Understanding cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease
16 ~~and other dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER, including the <--
17 difference between normal cognitive aging and dementias.

18 (2) Early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease ~~and other~~ <--
19 ~~dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER. <--

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

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

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

26 (b) Existing outreach programs.--The department shall
27 incorporate public information in subsection (a) into existing
28 relevant public health outreach programs administered by the
29 department to promote understanding and awareness of Alzheimer's
30 disease ~~and other dementias~~ OR A RELATED DISORDER to the general <--

1 public. Public awareness information shall provide uniform,
2 consistent guidance in nonclinical terms, with an emphasis on
3 cultural relevancy and health literacy.

4 Section 6. Effective date.

5 This act shall take effect in 60 days.