

1 SB89
2 136425-3
3 By Senator Ward
4 RFD: Health
5 First Read: 07-FEB-12
6 PFD: 01/18/2012

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

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11 To create the Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource
12 Network known also as Alabama Respite to support family
13 caregivers of children and adults with health care needs and
14 to coordinate the Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition; to
15 provide for the membership of the Alabama Lifespan Respite
16 Coalition; to coordinate statewide respite care efforts; to
17 compete for federal funding; and to provide for funding
18 guidelines.

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

20 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
21 as the "Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network Act."

22 Section 2. (a) The legislative findings, purpose,
23 and intent of this act are to develop the infrastructure for a
24 statewide network of lifespan respite programs in Alabama and
25 for Alabama Respite to be the statewide entity to address
26 issues relating to respite care in our state.

1 (b) The Alabama Legislature makes the following
2 findings:

3 (1) Respite is short term temporary relief that can
4 make a world of difference for family caregivers of both
5 children and adults with disabilities and other health care
6 needs.

7 (2) Respite is one of the home and community-based
8 services most requested by family caregivers, yet remains in
9 short supply.

10 (3) As of 2012, over 818,000 adults in Alabama are
11 caregivers for a family member.

12 (4) Respite helps preserve families by reducing
13 stress, supporting stability, preventing situations that can
14 lead to abuse and neglect, and reducing the incidence of
15 divorce and out-of-home placement.

16 (5) Respite is a simple, cost-effective solution for
17 situations that can otherwise devastate families.

18 (6) A state lifespan respite program simplifies and
19 accelerates the process for accessing respite services and is
20 recognized by service providers, families, and policymakers,
21 in Alabama as well as nationwide, as the best practice in the
22 provision of respite care in the most cost-effective way.

23 (7) Federal legislation was passed in Congress that
24 would provide a mechanism to fund states that have
25 collaborative systems of lifespan respite provision in place.

1 Section 3. When used in this act, the following
2 words shall have the following meanings:

3 (1) ADULT WITH SPECIAL NEED. A person 19 years of
4 age or older who requires care or supervision to meet the
5 person's basic needs or prevent physical self-injury or injury
6 to others, or avoid placement in an institutional facility.

7 (2) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER. An entity
8 that provides a coordinated system for providing information
9 on long-term care programs and options, personal counseling,
10 and consumer access to publicly support long-term care
11 programs.

12 (3) CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEED. A person under age 19
13 who requires care or supervision beyond that required for
14 children generally to meet the child's basic needs or prevent
15 physical injury to self or others.

16 (4) ELIGIBLE STATE AGENCY. A state agency that
17 administers the Older Americans Act or the state's Medicaid
18 program or one designated by the Governor, and is an aging and
19 disability resource center working in collaboration with a
20 state respite coalition or organization.

21 (5) FAMILY CAREGIVER. Family members, foster
22 parents, or other adults providing ongoing unpaid care for an
23 adult or child with special needs.

24 (6) LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE. Coordinated systems of
25 accessible, community-based respite care services for family
26 caregivers of children or adults with special needs.

1 (7) RESPITE. Planned or emergency care provided to a
2 child or adult with a special need in order to provide
3 temporary relief to the family caregiver of that child or
4 adult.

5 (8) RESPITE PROVIDER. An individual who provides a
6 temporary break or period of relief to family caregivers.

7 (9) SPECIAL NEED. A disability or chronic illness as
8 defined in Public Law 109-442.

9 (10) STAKEHOLDER. A person, group, organization, or
10 system that affects or can be affected by an organization's
11 actions.

12 Section 4. There is created the Alabama Lifespan
13 Respite Resource Network as the statewide entity that shall do
14 the following:

15 (1) Address issues relating to respite care in our
16 state.

17 (2) Maintain a statewide system that facilitates the
18 availability and use of high quality, cost-effective lifespan
19 respite services that provide caregivers the break they need
20 from caring for a loved one with disability or chronic
21 illness.

22 (3) Develop and coordinate the Alabama Lifespan
23 Respite Coalition.

24 (4) Work in collaboration with the eligible state
25 agency and the Governor's Office to access funding through the
26 federal Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 (PL109-442).

1 (5) Identify statewide respite care providers.

2 (6) Maintain a directory of respite services in
3 Alabama and link family caregivers with respite care providers
4 and other types of respite-related programs.

5 (7) Provide technical assistance to community-based
6 organizations and other entities that wish to develop a
7 respite care program.

8 (8) Provide voucher respite funding to eligible
9 primary caregivers as funds are available.

10 (9) Provide information and referral services.

11 (10) Provide an easy to access and/or interactive
12 information avenue, such as a toll-free number or
13 informational website like www.alabamarespite.org, to share
14 current news about respite including new resources, training
15 opportunities, and information for caregivers.

16 (11) Offer family caregiver training through
17 partnership with other agencies or other organizations or
18 advocacy groups.

19 Section 5. (a) There is created the Alabama Lifespan
20 Respite Coalition composed of members who shall be culturally,
21 economically, and geographically diverse and representative of
22 the state demographics and appointed by the Governor or his or
23 her designee. The membership may include, but is not limited
24 to, the following:

25 (1) The Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee
26 on Education.

- 1 (2) The Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- 2 (3) The Chair of the House of Representatives Health
3 Committee.
- 4 (4) The Chair of the Senate Health Committee
- 5 (5) A member from the Governor's Office on
6 Disability.
- 7 (6) A member from the Department of Senior Services.
- 8 (7) A member from the Department of Medicaid.
- 9 (8) A member from the Department of Rehabilitation
10 Services.
- 11 (9) A member from the Department of Human Resources.
- 12 (10) A member from the Alabama Health Department.
- 13 (11) A member from the Department of Child Abuse and
14 Neglect Prevention.
- 15 (12) A member from the Department of Mental Health.
- 16 (13) A member from the Alabama Council for
17 Developmental Disabilities.
- 18 (14) A representative from a United Cerebral Palsy
19 affiliate in Alabama.
- 20 (15) A representative from a statewide advocacy or
21 support group.
- 22 (16) A representative from a community respite
23 initiative or program.
- 24 (17) A representative from a collaborative training
25 partner.

1 (18) Two family caregivers representing diverse
2 special needs populations.

3 (19) Two respite care providers.

4 (20) A representative from the Autism Society of
5 Alabama.

6 (21) A representative from the Alabama Hospice
7 Organization.

8 (22) A representative from the American Association
9 of Retired Persons (AARP).

10 (b) The members of the coalition shall meet at least
11 twice a year, and at such other times as the chair of the
12 coalition deems appropriate. Members shall serve without
13 compensation. A chair of the coalition shall be elected by the
14 membership at the first meeting of the coalition. Members
15 shall be appointed for three-year terms and may be eligible to
16 succeed themselves for one additional term. Members shall be
17 appointed to the coalition within 30 days of the effective
18 date of this act. Any member who fails to attend three
19 consecutive meetings or at least one-half of all coalition
20 meetings held during the calendar year shall be deemed to have
21 resigned. Vacant positions shall be filled for any expired
22 term by the respective appointing authorities.

23 (c) The coalition shall have the following
24 responsibilities:

1 (1) Build partnerships and coordinate respite care
2 efforts statewide, and prepare Alabama to compete for federal
3 funding as the Lifespan Respite Act is funded.

4 (2) Provide public awareness about respite to the
5 citizens of Alabama.

6 (3) Identify, coordinate, and develop
7 community/funding resources for respite services.

8 (4) Build local partnerships and collaborations
9 regarding respite services.

10 Section 6. (a) The Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource
11 Network shall be designated as the entity to facilitate a
12 minimum of two meetings per year for the Alabama Lifespan
13 Respite Coalition and to coordinate activities and initiatives
14 of the coalition and that the Alabama Lifespan Respite
15 Coalition shall be the statewide respite coalition referred to
16 in the Federal Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 (PL109-442).
17 Alabama Respite will work in coordination with the eligible
18 state agency, as mandated by the act, to develop a Memorandum
19 of Agreement with the eligible state agency in order to allow
20 Alabama to compete for federal funding.

21 (b) Should funding be obtained through the act, the
22 coalition will support Alabama Respite's efforts to actively
23 develop and continue respite-related services with funds
24 utilized for the following mandated purposes:

25 (1) Development or enhancement of lifespan respite
26 programs at state and local levels.

1 (2) Direct respite care services for family
2 caregivers caring for children or adults.

3 (3) Respite worker and volunteer training and
4 recruitment.

5 (4) Provision of information to caregivers about
6 available respite services.

7 (5) Assistance to caregivers in gaining access to
8 such services.

9 Optional uses of the funds may include:

10 (1) Training programs for Alabama's family
11 caregivers to assist them in making informed decisions about
12 respite care services.

13 (2) Other services essential to the provision of
14 respite care as specified in the proposal process.

15 (3) Training and education for new caregivers.

16 Section 7. This act shall become effective on the
17 first day of the third month following its passage and
18 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate committee on Health.....	07-FEB-12
Read for the second time and placed on the calen- dar with 1 substitute and.....	08-FEB-12
Read for the third time and passed as amended	14-FEB-12

Yeas 29
Nays 0

Patrick Harris
Secretary