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HJR89 CREATING THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK FORCE.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative brain disorder, tragically robs individuals of their memory and leads to progressive mental and physical impairments; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 96,000 Alabamians 65 years of age and older have Alzheimer's disease, 216,000 Alabamians are currently designated as caregivers; and Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alzheimer's Association, the prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementias is anticipated to increase by nearly 15 percent during the next three years; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's and other dementias impact many state agencies including, but not limited to, Medicaid and those responsible for public health workers, facilities, licensing, the aging, and others; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama recognizes the need to have a clear and coordinated approach to address Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Alzheimer's Disease Task Force was established by Act 2012-597 and was charged with assessing the impact of Alzheimer's disease, examining the



29 existing service delivery system, and developing strategies
30 to respond to this critical public health challenge
31 confronting Alabama; and

32 WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Disease Task Force released
33 the State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease in 2015, and there is
34 a critical need to update the existing state plan; now
35 therefore,

36 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
37 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama Alzheimer's
38 Disease Task Force is reconstituted for the purposes of
39 updating the 2015 State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and
40 Other Related Dementias in Alabama by developing and
41 prioritizing recommendations to prepare the health care
42 workforce to meet the rising need for dementia care,
43 increase public awareness about Alzheimer's disease and
44 other dementias, and build support for family caregivers of
45 individuals with dementia.

46 (a) The membership of the task force shall consist of
47 all of the following:

48 (1) The Chair of the Senate Healthcare Committee or
49 its successor.

50 (2) A member of the Senate, appointed by the
51 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

52 (3) The Chair of the House of Representatives Health
53 Committee or its successor.

54 (4) A member of the House of Representatives,
55 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

56 (5) The following members appointed by the Governor:



57 a. An individual who represents the faith community.

58 b. An individual with dementia, appointed from a list
59 of three names submitted by the Alabama Department of Mental
60 Health.

61 c. A caregiver of an individual with Alzheimer's
62 disease, appointed from a list of three names submitted by
63 the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

64 (6) The following members appointed by the Lieutenant
65 Governor:

66 a. A university-based Alzheimer's disease researcher.

67 b. A member of law enforcement.

68 (7) The Director of the Alabama Department of Public
69 Health or his or her designee.

70 (8) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of
71 Mental Health or his or her designee.

72 (9) The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of
73 Human Resources or his or her designee.

74 (10) The Director of the Alabama Department of Senior
75 Services or his or her designee.

76 (11) The Commissioner of the Alabama Medicaid Agency
77 or his or her designee.

78 (12) A representative of the nursing facility
79 industry, appointed by the Alabama Nursing Home Association.

80 (13) A representative of the assisted living
81 industry, appointed by the Board of Examiners of Assisted
82 Living Administrators.

83 (14) A representative of the Alabama Department of
84 Veterans Affairs, appointed by the department.



85 (15) A representative of the Alabama Probate Judges
86 Association, appointed by the association.

87 (16) A representative of the Alzheimer's Association
88 Alabama Chapter, appointed by the association.

89 (17) A representative of the Alabama Silver-Haired
90 Legislature, appointed by the membership of that body.

91 (18) A representative of the medical profession,
92 appointed by the Medical Association of the State of
93 Alabama.

94 (19) A representative of the State Board of Health,
95 appointed by the board.

96 (20) A representative of AARP Alabama, appointed by
97 the association.

98 (b) (1) No later than 130 days after enactment of this
99 resolution, the Governor shall call the first meeting of the
100 task force, at which the members shall elect a chair and a
101 vice chair from among the membership.

102 (2) The legislative members of the task force shall
103 be entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem, and
104 travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the
105 task force pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution of
106 Alabama of 2022.

107 (3) The non-legislative members of the task force
108 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
109 necessary expenses in attending meetings of the task force
110 pursuant to the policies of their respective appointing
111 authority.

112 (4) The membership of the task force shall be



113 inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban,
114 rural, and economic diversity of the state.

115 (c) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
116 1975, the task force shall provide to the Secretary of State
117 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on
118 the task force, and a copy of the final State Alzheimer's
119 Disease Plan and other interim reports or documents produced
120 throughout the duration of the task force.

121 (d) The task force shall examine the relevant public
122 policies in assessing the current and future impact of
123 Alzheimer's disease and related dementias with the goal of
124 prioritizing recommendations for developing a coordinated
125 state strategy and response.

126 (e) (1) The task force shall meet as necessary to
127 conduct its business.

128 (2) The task force may hold public meetings and use
129 technology to gather feedback on its recommendations from
130 individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and
131 the wider public.

132 (3) Upon request of the chair, the Secretary of the
133 Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall
134 provide necessary clerical assistance and the Alabama
135 Department of Mental Health shall provide necessary
136 administrative support.

137 (f) (1) No later than the third day of the 2024
138 Regular Session of the Legislature, the task force shall
139 furnish by electronic mail to the Legislature an abbreviated



140 interim report containing a summary of task force meetings
141 and public hearings and its preliminary findings.

142 (2) The task force shall submit its final findings
143 and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature in
144 the form of an updated State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease
145 and Other Related Dementias in Alabama no later than the
146 third day of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature, at
147 which time the task force shall terminate.

148 (3) The recommendations of the task force shall not
149 be considered a medical protocol, guideline, or standard of
150 care for the treatment of any disease or condition.

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