

3864

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 28, 2011

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Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to services for  
persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby  
2 finds and declares that Alzheimer's disease and other dementias repre-  
3 sent a public health crisis in New York state. In nineteen hundred nine-  
4 ty-two the legislature established the task force on Alzheimer's disease  
5 and other dementias to identify priorities, policy alternatives and  
6 emerging issues with respect to caregivers and individuals with  
7 Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. As of 2007 it was estimated  
8 that approximately five hundred thousand New York residents suffered  
9 from Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. By the year 2050 it is  
10 estimated that approximately one million five hundred thousand New York-  
11 ers will develop this ailment. During the next decade, the oldest  
12 segment of New York state's population will account for over forty  
13 percent of all persons with dementia and these persons will require a  
14 wide array of services. Thus the urgency has increased for developing  
15 and implementing comprehensive public health and social services initi-  
16 atives to help persons with dementia and their caregivers.

17     The legislature therefore establishes the state level coordinating  
18 council for services related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias  
19 to oversee implementation of the recommendations of the coordinating  
20 council which shall include the development of a comprehensive state  
21 plan of action that will ensure coordination of public-private efforts  
22 to meet the needs of individuals with these dementias, their families  
23 and the professionals and services that support them.

24     S 2. The article heading of article 20 of the public health law, as  
25 added by chapter 738 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD05998-01-1

1 [REPORTING OF] SERVICES FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS  
2 S 3. Subdivision 2 of section 2003 of the public health law, as added  
3 by chapter 738 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

4 2. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, all information  
5 collected pursuant to this article shall be confidential insofar as the  
6 identity of the individual patient is concerned and shall be used solely  
7 for the purposes as provided in this article. Access to the information  
8 shall be limited to the authorized employees of the department and  
9 persons with a valid scientific interest and qualifications, as defined  
10 by the commissioner, INCLUDING THE MEMBERS OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
11 FOR SERVICES RELATED TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER DEMENTIAS ESTAB-  
12 LISHED BY SECTION TWO THOUSAND FOUR-A OF THIS ARTICLE, who are engaged  
13 in demographic, epidemiological or other similar studies related to  
14 health, and who agree, in writing, to maintain confidentiality as estab-  
15 lished by the commissioner.

16 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.