S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 16, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT, MARKEY, DINOWITZ -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO, BENEDETTO, CAHILL, COLTON, CUSICK, JAFFEE, PEOPLES-STOKES, PERRY, RAMOS, ROBINSON, SCHIMMINGER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health relating to helping individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia maintain their independence, remain at home and to support their caregivers

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

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative disease that usually begins gradually, causing a person to forget recent events or familiar tasks. It is the most common form of dementia. How rapidly it advances varies from person to person, but the brain disease eventually causes confusion, personality and behavioral changes, and impaired judgment. Communication becomes difficult as the affected person struggles to find words, finish thoughts or follow directions. Eventually, people with Alzheimer's disease become unable to care for themselves.

In 1996, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published an article called "A family intervention to delay nursing home placement with patients with Alzheimer's disease". In this and subsequent documents, the study's author, M. Mittleman of the Siberstein Aging and Dementia Research Center at the New York University Medical School, points out that with the use of a protocol similar to the array of services available through a combination of the Alzheimer's disease Assistance Centers and the Alzheimer's Disease Community Service Program, they were able to demonstrate that people in the treatment group were able to achieve a median length of stay at home of 521 days longer than the control group. In other words, they were able to delay nursing home placement by 521 days.

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

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In 2004, an updated study was released confirming the 1996 study showing that caregiver interventions and supports had a significant impact in delaying nursing home placements and decreased the symptoms of depression over a three year period. Troublesome behavior is a significant predictor of nursing home placement.

Therefore, the legislature hereby finds that supporting community based interventions to provide essential respite care, caregiver support and training, information and referral and other family support as well as helping to provide diagnosis, assessments and treatment through the Alzheimer's disease Assistance Centers and the Alzheimer's Disease Community Service Program, will help save the state money by delaying nursing home placements and will improve the quality of care and the quality of life for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia and their caregivers.

S 2. The sum of seven million dollars ($7,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the department of health out of any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available as follows:

a. three million dollars ($3,000,000) for services and expenses of the Alzheimer's disease Assistance Centers for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016;

b. three million dollars ($3,000,000) for services and expenses of the Alzheimer's Disease Community Service Program for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016; and

c. one million dollars ($1,000,000) for services and expenses of the Alzheimer's Community Assistance Program for the period April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of health in the manner prescribed by law.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.