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HOUSE BILL 2835

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Tharinger, Cody, Johnson, Harris, Appleton, Fey, Kilduff, and Goodman

Read first time 01/22/16. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a purple card alert system; and  
2 adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington  
5 state's elderly population is growing and the number of individuals  
6 with dementia is increasing.

7 (2) The legislature finds that more than one hundred thousand, or  
8 about two percent, of Washington residents exhibit symptoms of  
9 dementia.

10 (3) The legislature further finds that it is important that  
11 families and individuals caring for individuals with dementia be able  
12 to function in the community while caring for an individual with  
13 dementia.

14 (4) The legislature further finds that first responders,  
15 government officials, those in the business community, and others in  
16 the community benefit from knowing when they are interacting with a  
17 person with dementia and benefit from information and recommendations  
18 on ways to interact with people with dementia.

19 (5) The legislature intends to create a public information system  
20 to help first responders, businesses, government officials, and  
21 others in the community that an individual they are interacting with

1 has dementia and asking the individual receiving the purple card for  
2 understanding, acceptance, and accommodation of the person with  
3 dementia.

4 (6) This public notification system will consist of a purple-  
5 colored card measuring approximately two inches by three and one-half  
6 inches with information indicating that the companion of the person  
7 giving the card has dementia and memory loss issues and asking the  
8 receiver of the card to be understanding and accommodating to the  
9 person with dementia and his or her caregiver.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply  
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires  
12 otherwise.

13 (1) "Advisory group" means the advisory group established by  
14 section 3(2) of this act.

15 (2) "Caregiver" means a person who is not suffering from dementia  
16 who is assisting a person with dementia.

17 (3) "Dementia" means a chronic or persistent disorder of the  
18 mental processes caused by brain disease or injury and marked by  
19 memory disorders, personality changes, and impaired reasoning.

20 (4) "Department" means the department of social and health  
21 services.

22 (5) "First responders" means police officers and firefighters.

23 (6) "Purple card" means a purple-colored card designed by the  
24 department in accordance with this chapter that measures  
25 approximately two inches by three and one-half inches with  
26 information indicating that the companion of the person giving the  
27 card has dementia.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall develop a purple  
29 card alert system for caregivers of individuals with dementia to use  
30 to alert others they encounter while caring for a person with  
31 dementia about their companion's dementia condition.

32 (2) By June 1, 2016, the department shall establish an advisory  
33 group of not more than five individuals who care for a person with  
34 dementia and take the person with dementia into the community, two  
35 individuals representing organizations who represent people who care  
36 for people with dementia or advocate for people with dementia, one  
37 representative from the Washington association of sheriffs and police  
38 chiefs, one representative from the Washington state law enforcement

1 association, one representative from the Washington state association  
2 of fire chiefs, one representative from the association of Washington  
3 cities, one representative from the Washington association of  
4 counties, not more than six individuals representing organizations  
5 representing business interests, and additional members as the  
6 department shall deem appropriate. The members of the advisory group  
7 shall serve without compensation. By September 1, 2016, the  
8 department, with input from the advisory group, shall develop a  
9 purple-colored card designed by the department in accordance with  
10 this chapter that measures approximately two inches by three and one-  
11 half inches with information indicating that the companion of the  
12 person giving the card has dementia and memory loss issues and asking  
13 the receiver of the card to be understanding and accommodating to the  
14 person with dementia.

15 (3) By January 1, 2017, the department shall create and begin to  
16 implement a public information plan to alert first responders,  
17 government officials, businesses, and others in the community of the  
18 purple card alert system to advise individuals of their potential  
19 interaction with a person with dementia and recommend ways to  
20 accommodate and assist the person with dementia.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Within existing resources, the department  
22 shall develop and implement a plan, commonly known as a purple card  
23 alert system, for voluntary cooperation by local, state, tribal, and  
24 government agencies, radio and television stations, cable and  
25 satellite systems, newspapers and other publications, and businesses  
26 to enhance the public's ability to assist people with dementia in  
27 advising others who interact with persons with dementia of the need  
28 to accept and accommodate the person with dementia.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** By January 1, 2017, the department shall  
30 report to the appropriate standing committees of the house of  
31 representatives and the senate of the department's compliance with  
32 section 3 of this act.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act  
34 constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

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