
Health Care & Wellness Committee

HB 1646

Brief Description: Continuing the work of the dementia action collaborative.

Sponsors: Representatives Bateman, Harris, Leavitt, Walen and Dolan.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Codifies the Dementia Action Collaborative to assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias on Washington residents and to update the Washington State Alzheimer's Plan.

Hearing Date: 1/10/22

Staff: Christopher Blake (786-7392).

Background:

Alzheimer's disease is a form of dementia that affects parts of the brain that control thought, memory, language, and functional status. Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible, progressive brain disease that results in death of the individual. In more than 90 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease, symptoms do not appear until after age 60. The causes of Alzheimer's disease are not known, but are believed to be associated with a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors.

In 2014 the Legislature directed the Department of Social and Health Services to convene an Alzheimer's disease working group (working group) to develop a state Alzheimer's plan. In 2016 the working group released the "Washington State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias" (Plan). The Plan includes information about trends in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in Washington and identifies seven goals to address Alzheimer's disease in Washington. The seven goals relate to: (1) public awareness; (2) preparation for growth in the

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dementia population; (3) the well-being of people living with dementia and their families and caregivers; (4) access to comprehensive supports for family caregivers; (5) early identification of dementia and provision of dementia-capable, evidence-based health care; (6) the availability of dementia-capable long-term services and supports in the setting of choice; and (7) innovation and research related to the causes of and interventions for dementia. Since the issuance of the report, the working group has been renamed the Dementia Action Collaborative.

Summary of Bill:

The Dementia Action Collaborative (Collaborative) is established to assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias on Washington residents. Specifically, it must examine progress in implementing the Washington State Alzheimer's Plan (Plan) adopted in 2016, assess available services and resources for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their families and caregivers, examine strategies to rectify disparate effects of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias on people of color, and develop a strategy for a state response to this public health crisis.

In addition, the Collaborative must also review and revise the Washington State Alzheimer's Plan. The revisions must evaluate and address:

- population trends related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, including demographic information related to Washington residents living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and disparities in the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias between different racial and ethnic populations; and
- existing services, resources, and health care system capacity, including the types, cost, and availability of dementia services; dementia-specific training requirements; public safety and long enforcement needs for responding to persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; the availability of home and community-based resources; the availability of long-term dementia care beds; state funding and Alzheimer's disease research; and advances in knowledge regarding brain health, dementia, and risk reduction related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

The Collaborative must submit an updated Plan to the Governor and the Legislature by October 2023, and provide annual updates.

The Governor must appoint members of the Collaborative who include:

- a representative of the Governor's Office;
- a representative and an alternate from the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration at the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS);
- a representative and an alternate from the Developmental Disabilities Administration at the DSHS;
- a representative and an alternate from the Department of Health;
- a representative and an alternate from the Health Care Authority;
- a representative and an alternate from the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombuds;
- at least one person with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia;

- a caregiver of a person with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia;
- a representative of the University of Washington's Memory and Brain Wellness Center;
- a representative of an organization representing areas agencies on aging;
- a representative of an association representing long-term care facilities in Washington;
- a representative of an association representing physicians in Washington;
- a representative of a Washington-based organization of volunteers, family, and friends of those affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias;
- a representative of an Alzheimer's advocacy organization;
- an attorney who specializes in elder law;
- an Alzheimer's disease researcher;
- a representative of an organization representing emergency medical service providers in Washington; and
- an expert in workforce development.

The Collaborative expires July 1, 2027.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 4, 2022.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.