

SENATE BILL 400

P1

5lr1695
CF 5lr1694

By: **Senators Pugh, Bates, Benson, Eckardt, Feldman, Guzzone, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, Middleton, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Peters, Reilly, Young, and Ready**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Commemorative Months – Alzheimer’s and Brain**
3 **Awareness Month**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain month as
5 Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month and to urge the Department of Health and
6 Mental Hygiene and the Department of Aging, in conjunction with certain entities,
7 to properly observe Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month with appropriate
8 programs, ceremonies, and activities, including certain summits and updates; and
9 generally relating to Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month.

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – General Provisions
12 Section 7–504 through 7–506, respectively
13 to be Section 7–505 through 7–507, respectively
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Volume)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – General Provisions
18 Section 7–504
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2014 Volume)

21 Preamble

22 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease, a progressive neurodegenerative brain disorder,
23 tragically robs individuals of their memories and leads to progressive mental and physical
24 impairments; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United
2 States, the ninth-leading cause of death in Maryland, and is the only cause of death in the
3 top ten that has no cure, no treatment, and no way to slow its progression; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 5,000,000 people in the United States are living with
5 Alzheimer's disease, including 97,000 Marylanders; and

6 WHEREAS, The cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's disease in the United
7 States exceeds \$200 billion per year, and those costs are expected to rise dramatically with
8 the increase in the numbers of older people in the coming decades; and

9 WHEREAS, There are over 286,000 dedicated caregivers in Maryland who provide
10 unpaid care at home valued at more than \$4 billion; and

11 WHEREAS, Medicare and most private health insurance do not cover the long-term
12 services and support that most people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia need; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer's disease
14 indirectly costs businesses up to \$37 billion a year in lost productivity for employees who
15 miss work or leave their jobs to provide care for a relative; and

16 WHEREAS, Researchers in Maryland and around the world continue their efforts to
17 develop scientific breakthroughs that could one day bring about a world without
18 Alzheimer's disease; and

19 WHEREAS, There is a need to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and to
20 honor all the caregivers who support and care for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease; now,
21 therefore,

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
23 That Section(s) 7-504 through 7-506, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the
24 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-505 through 7-507,
25 respectively.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
27 as follows:

28 **Article – General Provisions**

29 **7-504.**

30 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM JUNE AS ALZHEIMER'S**
31 **AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH IN RECOGNITION OF ALL MARYLANDERS,**
32 **INCLUDING FAMILY CAREGIVERS, WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY ALZHEIMER'S**
33 **DISEASE AND OTHER BRAIN-RELATED DISEASES.**

1 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND**
2 **MENTAL HYGIENE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH**
3 **RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADVOCACY ENTITIES, TO OBSERVE ALZHEIMER'S**
4 **AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS,**
5 **CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:**

6 **(1) CAREGIVER SUMMITS IN HONOR OF THE LONGEST DAY TEAM**
7 **EVENT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING CAREGIVING NEEDS, CHALLENGES,**
8 **AND BARRIERS; AND**

9 **(2) AS APPROPRIATE, UPDATES FROM THE VIRGINIA I. JONES**
10 **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS COUNCIL.**

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2015.