

HOUSE BILL 446

J1

6lr1479
CF SB 555

By: ~~Delegates Martinez and Acevero~~, Acevero, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Kaufman, Lopez, Rosenberg, Ross, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Health

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and ~~Clinical~~ Provider**
3 **Resource Toolkit**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the duties of the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and
5 Related Dementias Council; establishing the Dementia Services and Brain Health
6 Program in the Maryland Department of Health to lead the State’s public health
7 efforts relating to brain health and dementia; requiring the Director of Dementia
8 Services and Brain Health to administer the Program; requiring the Program, rather
9 than the Director, to perform certain duties and staff the Council; requiring the
10 Program to oversee implementation of a certain State Plan and support and promote
11 the delivery of dementia-capable care; requiring the Maryland Department of
12 Health, in partnership with the Department of Aging, the Council, and other entities,
13 to develop a ~~clinical~~ provider resource toolkit for dementia care for health care
14 providers; and generally relating to Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias and
15 dementia services.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – Health – General
18 Section 13–3201, 13–3202, 13–3207, 13–32A–03, and 13–32A–06
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article – Health – General

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 13–3205, 13–3206, 13–32A–01, 13–32A–02, 13–32A–04, and 13–32A–05
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

4 BY adding to
5 Article – Health – General
6 Section 13–32A–07
7 Annotated Code of Maryland
8 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
10 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

11 **Article – Health – General**

12 13–3201.

13 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

14 (b) “Council” means the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related
15 Dementias Council.

16 (c) “Director” means the Director of Dementia Services and Brain Health
17 established under Subtitle 32A of this title.

18 13–3202.

19 There is a Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Council.

20 13–3205.

21 (a) The [Director] **DEMENTIA SERVICES AND BRAIN HEALTH PROGRAM**,
22 with assistance from the Department of Aging, shall provide staff support for the Council.

23 (b) The Director may request staffing assistance from public health entities with
24 an interest in the duties of the Council.

25 13–3206.

26 The Council shall:

27 (1) Update the State Plan on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias
28 and advocate for the State Plan;

29 (2) (i) Examine the needs of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and
30 related dementias and their caregivers; and

1 (ii) Identify methods through which the State can most effectively
2 and efficiently assist in meeting those needs;

3 (3) (I) EXAMINE THE READINESS AND CAPACITY OF HEALTH CARE
4 PROVIDERS TO DELIVER CARE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH OR AT RISK FOR ALZHEIMER'S
5 DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS; AND

6 (II) IDENTIFY METHODS THROUGH WHICH THE STATE CAN
7 ASSIST HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN DELIVERING CARE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH OR
8 AT RISK FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS IN THE MOST
9 EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANNER;

10 [(3)] (4) Advise the Governor and the General Assembly on policy,
11 funding, regulatory, and other issues related to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and
12 related dementias and their caregivers; and

13 [(4)] (5) Develop and promote strategies to encourage brain health and
14 reduce cognitive decline.

15 13-3207.

16 On or before September 1, 2022, and on or before September 1 every 5 years
17 thereafter, the Council shall issue and publish an update to the State Plan on Alzheimer's
18 Disease and Related Dementias.

19 13-32A-01.

20 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (b) "Council" means the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related
22 Dementias Council.

23 (c) "Director" means the Director of Dementia Services and Brain Health.

24 (D) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE DEMENTIA SERVICES AND BRAIN HEALTH
25 PROGRAM.

26 13-32A-02.

27 [(a)] There is a Director of Dementia Services and Brain Health in the Department.

28 [(b)] The Director shall report to the Secretary.]

29 13-32A-03.

30 The position of Director shall be a full-time and permanent position.

1 13-32A-04.

2 [(a) The purpose of the position of Director is to coordinate and facilitate
3 communication relating to dementia services in the State.]

4 **(A) THERE IS A DEMENTIA SERVICES AND BRAIN HEALTH PROGRAM IN**
5 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

6 **(B) THE DIRECTOR SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

7 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO LEAD THE STATE'S PUBLIC**
8 **HEALTH EFFORTS RELATING TO BRAIN HEALTH AND DEMENTIA.**

9 **[(b)] (D) The [Director] PROGRAM shall:**

10 (1) Coordinate the Department's approach to addressing Alzheimer's
11 disease and other forms of dementia and brain health, including through public awareness,
12 prevention, and early detection and diagnosis;

13 (2) Staff the Council and [oversee implementation of the State Plan on
14 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias] **UPDATE THE COUNCIL EACH QUARTER ON**
15 **THE PROGRAM'S ACTIVITIES;**

16 **(3) OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE PLAN ON**
17 **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS;**

18 **[(3)] (4) Assess, analyze, and conduct outreach to share cognitive health**
19 **and dementia-related data;**

20 **[(4)] (5) Develop and monitor implementation milestones and**
21 **measurable outcomes to assess progress in achieving the goals laid out in the State Plan**
22 **on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias;**

23 **[(5)] (6) Identify efficiencies across State agencies that aid individuals**
24 **with dementia and their caregivers, and coordinate public and private stakeholder**
25 **partnerships;**

26 **(7) SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE DELIVERY OF DEMENTIA-CAPABLE**
27 **CARE ACROSS HEALTH CARE SETTINGS THROUGH VARIOUS METHODS, INCLUDING:**

28 **(i) ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A ~~CLINICAL PROVIDER~~**
29 **RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR DEMENTIA CARE, AS DEFINED IN § 13-32A-07 OF THIS**
30 **SUBTITLE, TO SUPPORT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN DELIVERING**
31 **EVIDENCE-BASED, PERSON-CENTERED CARE;**

1 (II) COORDINATING WITH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH
2 OCCUPATIONS BOARDS, AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS TO PROMOTE
3 PARTICIPATION IN DEMENTIA-SPECIFIC EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND
4 CERTIFICATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS; AND

5 (III) COLLABORATING WITH STATE-LED CARE
6 TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO INCORPORATE
7 DEMENTIA-CAPABLE CARE PRACTICES INTO HEALTH CARE MODELS;

8 [(6)] (8) Apply for grants to enable the implementation of the State Plan
9 on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias goals to reduce the risk of dementia, and to
10 improve the quality of care for individuals with dementia and their caregivers; and

11 [(7)] (9) Carry out other duties relevant to the support of individuals with
12 dementia as may be assigned by the Department.

13 13-32A-05.

14 On or before September 1, 2023, and on or before September 1 every 5 years
15 thereafter, the Director shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of
16 the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and
17 Government Operations Committee on the activities and recommendations of the
18 [Director] PROGRAM.

19 13-32A-06.

20 The Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation to fund the
21 position of Director and the Council, as follows:

22 (1) For fiscal year 2023, at least \$71,400;

23 (2) For fiscal year 2024, at least \$83,000;

24 (3) For fiscal year 2025, at least \$85,300;

25 (4) For fiscal year 2026, at least \$87,600; and

26 (5) For fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter, at least \$89,900.

27 13-32A-07.

28 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "TOOLKIT" MEANS THE ~~CLINICAL PROVIDER~~
29 RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR DEMENTIA CARE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
30 DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

1 (B) ON OR BEFORE ~~JANUARY~~ OCTOBER 1, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT, IN
2 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING, THE COUNCIL, AND OTHER
3 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE OR
4 RELATED DEMENTIAS SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A ~~CLINICAL PROVIDER~~
5 RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR DEMENTIA CARE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

6 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE TOOLKIT IS TO PROVIDE A CENTRALIZED,
7 UP-TO-DATE RESOURCE TO SUPPORT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN CARING FOR
8 PATIENTS WHO ARE AT RISK FOR OR WHO MAY HAVE DEMENTIA.

9 (D) THE TOOLKIT DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION
10 SHALL ~~INCLUDE~~:

11 (1) BE COMPOSED OF MATERIALS THAT CAN BE DEVELOPED USING
12 EXISTING RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OR OBTAINED
13 THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITIES AS DETERMINED
14 NECESSARY BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

15 (2) INCLUDE INFORMATION ON:

16 ~~(1)~~ (I) RISK FACTORS FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED
17 DEMENTIAS, INCLUDING CHRONIC DISEASES AND THE CO-OCCURRENCE OF DOWN
18 SYNDROME (TRISOMY-21);

19 ~~(2)~~ (II) RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES, INCLUDING INFORMATION
20 ON LIFESTYLE INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE DEMENTIA RISK;

21 ~~(3)~~ (III) THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DETECTION AND DIAGNOSIS
22 OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS;

23 ~~(4)~~ (IV) VALIDATED ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR THE DETECTION AND
24 DIAGNOSIS OF COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT;

25 ~~(5)~~ (V) THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN DETECTING,
26 DIAGNOSING, AND ACCESSING TREATMENT AND SERVICES;

27 ~~(6)~~ (VI) PERSON-CENTERED CARE DELIVERY AND RELEVANT
28 SOURCES OF CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND TOOLS;

29 ~~(7)~~ (VII) EFFECTIVE CARE PLANNING TOOLS, INCLUDING:

1 ~~(I)~~ 1. AVAILABLE REIMBURSEMENT TOOLS, INCLUDING
2 RELEVANT BILLING CODES, FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT;

3 ~~(II)~~ 2. REFERRAL PATHWAYS TO COMMUNITY-BASED
4 SERVICES AND CARE PLANNING RESOURCES; AND

5 ~~(III)~~ 3. INFORMATION ON TREATMENT OPTIONS AND
6 RELEVANT SOURCES FOR GUIDELINES; AND

7 ~~(8)~~ (VIII) CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO
8 DEMENTIA CARE BEST PRACTICES.

9 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROMOTE THE USE OF THE TOOLKIT ACROSS
10 HEALTH CARE SECTORS, INCLUDING:

11 (1) MANAGED CARE PROGRAMS;

12 (2) ACADEMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS;

13 (3) HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS;

14 (4) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS;

15 (5) HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM ASSOCIATIONS;

16 (6) PHYSICIAN AND MEDICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS;

17 (7) ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING THE ADVANCEMENT OF NURSES,
18 HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS; AND

19 (8) ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, ENTITY, OR
20 PART OF AN ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS NECESSARY.

21 (F) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2028, THE
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW AND UPDATE THE INFORMATION IN THE TOOLKIT TO
23 REFLECT THE MOST RECENT AND ACCURATE AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2026.