



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 456 - Maryland Department of Health - Public Health Outreach Programs - Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's Disease, and Other Types of Dementia

**SPONSOR:** Delegates Sample-Hughes, *et al.*

**HEARING DATE:** February 12, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Health and Government Operations

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 456 – Maryland Department of Health – Public Health Outreach Programs – Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's Disease, and Other Types of Dementia**, which requires the Maryland Department of Health to educate health care providers and increase understanding of certain types of cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and other types of dementia through public health outreach programs.

Proper identification and treatment of age-related cognitive problems is increasingly important to Prince George's County and its rapidly aging population. In just five years, the number of County residents ages 65 and older increased by 26%.<sup>1</sup> Of the 120,000 residents age 65 and older, about 11,000, or 9%, have a cognitive disability.<sup>2</sup> By age 75, 15% of county residents are affected.<sup>3</sup>

In a primary care setting, the diagnosis of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other types of cognitive impairment can be complicated.<sup>4</sup> However, with a correct diagnosis early in disease progression, interventions like medication or cognitive stimulation therapy can slow cognitive decline and improve quality of life.<sup>5</sup> Providers can also educate patients and caregivers, discuss advanced directives, and offer practical

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census American Community Survey Population Estimates, 2013-2018

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2018, Table S1810

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2018, Table S1810

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aafp.org/afp/2001/0215/p703.html>

<sup>5</sup> Robinson L, Tang E, Taylor JP. Dementia: timely diagnosis and early intervention. *BMJ*. 2015;350:h3029. Published 2015 Jun 16. doi:10.1136/bmj.h3029, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4468575/>

support.<sup>6</sup> Establishing an education program for physicians and providers would enhance their ability to offer these interventions.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

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<sup>6</sup> Robinson L, Tang E, Taylor JP. Dementia: timely diagnosis and early intervention. *BMJ*. 2015;350:h3029. Published 2015 Jun 16. doi:10.1136/bmj.h3029, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4468575/>