

SUBJECT: Creating a plan for education on and treatment of Alzheimer's disease

COMMITTEE: Public Health — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — S. Thompson, Wray, Allison, Coleman, Frank, Guerra, Ortega, Price, Sheffield

0 nays

2 absent — Lucio, Zedler

WITNESSES: For — Melissa Sanchez, Alzheimer's Association; Charles Cordes; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Amanda Fredriksen, AARP; Kwame Walker, BIOGEN; Bill Kelly, City of Houston Mayor's Office; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas Inc.; Diana Martinez, Texas Assisted Living Association; Nora Belcher, Texas e-Health Alliance; Scot Kibbe, Texas Health Care Association; Troy Alexander, Texas Medical Association; Kevin Stewart, Texas Psychological Association)

Against — None

On — Manda Hall, Department of State Health Services

DIGEST: CSHB 1915 would require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to develop and implement a state plan for education on and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. The plan would include strategies for:

- improving early detection, reducing disease onset risks for, and improving treatment for specific demographic groups;
- educating health care professionals, caregivers, and the public;
- providing caregiver support;
- advancing basic science and applied research; and
- collecting and evaluating information on prevention and treatment

efforts.

These strategies would be developed in consultation with health care providers in the state with clinical training and experience in caring for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

During the development of the state plan, DSHS would seek comments from interested parties with relevant experience, to include:

- members of the public;
- state agencies;
- advisory bodies;
- public advocates;
- health care professionals; and
- researchers.

DSHS would be required to meet with interested parties at least twice a year to facilitate comments and discuss progress on the state plan and to gather information.

Upon request from DSHS, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) would provide information and comments on the services provided to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

DSHS would conduct a review of the state plan and make necessary modifications at least once every five years. The department would be required to submit a report on the development and implementation or the review and modification of the state plan to the Legislature by September 1 of each even-numbered year.

DSHS could accept gifts and grants from any source to fund the provisions of this bill.

The creation of the state plan on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders would not create a civil, criminal, or administrative cause of action or liability or create a standard of care, obligation, or duty that would provide

a basis for a cause of action.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 1915 would help the state of Texas create strategies to address the immense burden that Alzheimer's disease and related disorders place on Texans suffering from these diseases, as well as their caregivers and the state health care system. An estimated 390,000 Texans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and about 1.5 million Texans care for Alzheimer's patients. CSHB 1915 would mandate the creation of a proactive plan to address this public health crisis.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.