



# HOUSE BILL 422: Raise Awareness About Alzheimer's & Dementias.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations	<b>Date:</b>	April 4, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Murphy, Dobson, Boswell	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Theresa Matula
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Committee Staff

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 422 would appropriate \$300,000 in FY 2017-2018 and \$200,000 in FY 2018-2019 to the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to allocate to the Center of Outreach in Alzheimer's, Aging, and Community Health at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (the Center). The Center must use the funding and consult with DHHS and others, to: i) develop workshops, support groups, conferences and materials; ii) develop a comprehensive caregiver toolkit; and iii) implement a Connect the Family project to share information on Alzheimer's and related dementias and to support caregivers. The bill would become effective July 1, 2017.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S305, as introduced by Sens. Robinson, Barefoot, Chaudhuri, which is currently in Senate Health Care.]

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 422 appropriates \$300,000 for FY 2017-2018 and \$200,000 for FY 2018-2019 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). The Department is directed to allocate these funds to the Center of Outreach in Alzheimer's, Aging, and Community Health at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (the Center).

The funds will be used to develop and implement the items listed below.

1. Workshops, support groups, conferences, and materials – The Center is required to develop evidence-based workshops, support groups, and conferences designed to improve awareness, literacy, and knowledge about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Requirements include:

- The model will be utilized in the 20 counties with the highest number of low-income families, specifically targeting underserved, underrepresented and rural populations.
- The materials developed must be culturally relevant and bilingual.
- The materials must be available free of charge to the general public on the Center's and the DHHS Internet Web sites in a format that can be downloaded.
- The Center must work with DHHS and other State agencies to develop training programs and awareness activities that are inclusive and engaging across all races, ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses, and educational levels. The Center is also encouraged to work with faith-based organizations to provide outreach to the community concerning brain health.

2. Comprehensive caregiver toolkit - The Center is required to develop a toolkit to assist families caring for a loved one affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The caregiver toolkit must:

- Be informed by data from families impacted by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

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Director



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- Address financial resources, legal planning, elder care, and care for the caregiver and provide guidance on local resources and resources specific to counties.
  - Available free of charge to the general public on the DHHS Internet Web site in a format that can be downloaded.
3. "Connect the Family" project - The Center must implement this project to increase awareness about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and to inform the community about resources available to assist families caring for a loved one affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. The Center must:
- Conduct a statewide caregiver's education conference to share up-to-date information on research as well as introduce the comprehensive caregiver toolkit.
  - Conduct the conference remotely or in person, in each of the 20 rural counties identified in item 1 above.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** House Bill 422 would become effective July 1, 2017.

**BACKGROUND:** The NC Institute of Medicine released the [Dementia-Capable North Carolina: A Strategic Plan for Addressing Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias](#) report in March 2016. The report was presented to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on March 8, 2016. The presentation included the following background information on Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias: It is the 5th leading cause of death in North Carolina; there are over 160,000 older adults diagnosed with Alzheimer's or related dementias currently and that number is expected to rise to 300,000 by 2030; and it is the only top 10 cause of death that cannot be cured, prevented, or slowed. By 2025, one in five North Carolinians will be 65 and older.

The report contained a number of recommendations. HB 422 is related to Recommendation 5.1: Promote integration and accessibility of dementia-specific resources through a comprehensive caregiver toolkit and a virtual resource center.