

House Bill 571

By: Representatives Silcox of the 53rd, Cooper of the 45th, and Dempsey of the 13th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 8 of Chapter 6 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan, so as to provide that the Georgia
3 Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan be updated every four years; to provide for
4 a progress report between updates; to revise provisions relating to membership on the
5 advisory council; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 8 of Chapter 6 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan, is amended by revising Code Section
11 49-6-92, relating to establishment of advisory council, membership, advisory nature, review
12 and recommendations, operation of council, and reporting, as follows:

13 "49-6-92.

14 (a) There is established the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan
15 Advisory Council which shall consist of the following members:

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- 16 (1) Eleven individuals are standing members due to their position in government agency,
17 organization, or elected office:
- 18 (A) The commissioner of human services or his or her designee;
 - 19 (B) The director of the Division of Aging Services;
 - 20 (C) The president of the Georgia Association of Area Agencies on Aging or his or her
21 designee;
 - 22 (D) The commissioner of community health or his or her designee;
 - 23 (E) The commissioner of public health or his or her designee;
 - 24 (F) The commissioner of behavioral health and developmental disabilities or his or her
25 designee;
 - 26 (G) The chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee or his or her
27 designee;
 - 28 (H) The chairperson of the House Committee on Public Health and Human Services
29 or his or her designee;
 - 30 (I) The chairperson of the House Committee on Human Relations and Aging or his or
31 her designee;
 - 32 (J) A representative of the Georgia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; and
 - 33 (K) A representative of the Georgia Council on Aging; and
- 34 (2) The Governor shall appoint one individual from around the state in each topical area
35 below, chosen for his or her expertise or experience in one of the following six specific
36 fields:
- 37 (A) A provider of residential, health care, or personal care services to those living with
38 dementia;
 - 39 (B) A social gerontologist or clinical researcher in an education or clinical setting with
40 expertise in dementia;
 - 41 (C) An advocate with a not-for-profit or state agency whose role is to improve services
42 for older adults or those living with dementia;

- 43 (D) A medical professional with an active practice specializing in geriatrics, neurology,
44 or other field closely related to dementia;
- 45 (E) A caregiver, current or past, for a family member with dementia who has
46 experience navigating health care service options; and
- 47 (F) A person who has been diagnosed with dementia.
- 48 (b) The advisory council shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor, the General
49 Assembly, the Department of Human Services, and all other state agencies on matters
50 relating to the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan. The advisory
51 council shall review and make recommendations regarding progress toward the goals of
52 the state plan and on progress in implementing resources and services to serve individuals
53 with dementia related diseases around Georgia in the future. Such review and
54 recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 55 (1) Selecting current priorities for state plan work groups to focus on;
- 56 (2) Examining the current laws, rules and regulations, and policies of the various
57 agencies that interact with services for individuals with dementia and making
58 recommendations to improve the navigation of and provision of care services for those
59 with dementia and their caregivers;
- 60 (3) Proposing legislative or administrative changes to policies and programs needed for
61 furtherance of the state plan;
- 62 (4) Examining state and federal funding into the areas of the state plan and reviewing
63 how to work interdisciplinarily to ensure the most efficient and effective use of available
64 resources;
- 65 (5) Locating and assisting departments or partner agencies in applying for new funding
66 sources and new opportunities in furtherance of the goals of the state plan; and
- 67 (6) Amending the state plan at least every ~~three~~ four years and submitting the amended
68 state plan to the Governor for authorization.

69 (c) The advisory council shall annually elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from
70 among its membership. The advisory council may elect such other officers and establish
71 committees as it considers appropriate. Until a chairperson and vice chairperson are
72 elected or if the chairperson or vice chairperson is unavailable, the director of the Division
73 of Aging Services shall serve temporarily in that role until a new election can be held by
74 the advisory council. The advisory council shall create and vote on bylaws and policies as
75 needed.

76 (d) The terms of those individuals appointed by the Governor pursuant to paragraph (2)
77 of subsection (a) of this Code section shall serve for an appointment of two years, with the
78 exception of the first year of existence of the advisory council. For the purpose of
79 staggering term appointments, in the first appointment of the individuals in paragraph (2)
80 of subsection (a) of this Code section, the Governor shall appoint three appointees for a
81 one-year first term and three appointees for a two-year first term. All subsequent
82 appointments or reappointments shall be for terms of two years. If an appointee resigns or
83 is otherwise unable to complete the appointed term, the Governor shall appoint a new
84 individual whose expertise or experience satisfies the vacated position within 90 days.

85 (e) The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly and at such additional times as it shall
86 determine necessary to perform its duties. The advisory council shall also meet on the call
87 of the chairperson, the vice chairperson, the commissioner, or the Governor. All meetings
88 shall contain updates from each work group and presentations on any developed proposals
89 for furtherance of the state plan goals. At or before the summer quarterly meeting, the
90 advisory council shall take a formal vote on any proposals or recommendations under
91 consideration.

92 (f)(1) Starting on January 1, ~~2019~~ 2027, and repeating every ~~three~~ four years ~~after that~~
93 ~~date thereafter~~, the advisory council shall submit to the Governor for ~~his or her~~ review
94 and approval and thereafter make available to the General Assembly an amended state
95 plan ~~a report on the work of the advisory council~~. Prior to submitting an amended state

96 plan, the advisory council shall evaluate the latest data and statistics showing the impact
97 of dementia on the State of Georgia, review a summary of the progress and barriers
98 toward implementation of the goals of the current state plan, and review any other
99 information deemed relevant by the advisory council to identify necessary amendments
100 to the current state plan. The published state plan shall include the underlying data and
101 analysis and the goals identified to achieve the purposes set out in this article. This report
102 ~~shall include a summary of the progress report toward implementation of the state plan~~
103 ~~and recommendations for amendments to the state plan. If the advisory council~~
104 ~~determines that amendments need to be made to the state plan, an amended Georgia~~
105 ~~Alzheimer's and Related Dementia State Plan may be presented to the Governor for~~
106 ~~review and approval.~~

107 (2) Starting on January 1, 2025, and repeating every four years thereafter, the advisory
108 council shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report detailing the
109 latest data and statistics showing the impact of dementia on the State of Georgia and a
110 summary of the progress toward the goals identified in the state plan.

111 (g) The department shall staff a position for the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related
112 Dementias State Plan; such position shall be the state plan coordinator. The state plan
113 coordinator shall assist the chairperson and advisory council on council related activities,
114 coordinating the advisory council meetings, and coordinating and serving as a liaison
115 between the work groups and the advisory council, and other associated duties as assigned
116 by the department. The state plan coordinator shall ensure that the progress report is
117 published pursuant to subsection (f) of this Code section.

118 (h) The advisory council members shall serve in one or more of the Georgia Alzheimer's
119 and Related Dementias State Plan work groups as described in the goals of the state plan.
120 These work groups are to be composed of volunteers and individuals interested in dementia
121 and shall meet between the quarterly meetings to develop the priorities from paragraph (1)

122 of subsection (b) of this Code section to present recommendations to the full advisory
123 council at its quarterly meetings.

124 (i) Members shall serve without compensation, although each member of the advisory
125 council shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of his or her
126 duties from funds available to the advisory council; provided, however, that any legislative
127 member shall receive the allowances authorized by law for legislative members of interim
128 legislative committees and any members who are state employees shall be reimbursed for
129 expenses incurred by them in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses in their
130 capacities as state employees."

131 **SECTION 2.**

132 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.