LEGISLATIVE BILL 405

Introduced by Davis, 43; Howard, 9.
Read first time January 16, 2015
Committee: Health and Human Services

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to Alzheimer's and related disorders; to
2 create a work group; to provide a termination date; to provide
3 powers and duties; and to declare an emergency.
4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,
Section 1. (1) The Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Advisory Work Group is created. The work group shall have a membership of thirteen persons including the chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee, two members of the Legislature appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council as nonvoting members of the work group, the Public Guardian or his or her designee as a nonvoting member of the work group, and the following members appointed by the Governor: One representative of the area agencies on aging, one representative of an organization advocating for patients and caregivers for patients with Alzheimer’s or related disorders, one representative of the law enforcement community, one representative of patients with Alzheimer’s or related disorders, one representative of caregivers for patients with Alzheimer’s or related disorders, and four representatives selected from any of the following categories: Client advocacy organizations; health care provider advocacy organizations; private health care providers; and community-based health professionals.

(2) The members shall select a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among the membership.

(3) The members shall not be reimbursed for their service on the work group but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177. The work group may work with a private organization to provide administrative support.

Sec. 2. The Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Advisory Work Group shall meet and organize as soon as possible after the effective date of this act. The work group shall develop a state plan as provided in section 3 of this act and electronically deliver the state plan to the Governor and the Legislature on or before December 15, 2016. The work group shall make a presentation of the state plan to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on or before December 15, 2016. The work group shall terminate on December 31, 2016.

Sec. 3. (1) The Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Advisory Work
Group shall develop a state plan as provided in this section. The work group shall:

(a) Assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's and related disorders on residents of the state;

(b) Determine the existing services and resources in the state that address the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's and related disorders and their families and caregivers; and

(c) Develop recommendations to respond to escalating needs for the services and resources described in subdivision (b) of this subsection.

(2) In fulfilling the duties described in subsection (1) of this section, the work group shall examine:

(a) Trends and needs in the state relating to populations with Alzheimer's or related disorders, including (i) the state's role in the provision of long-term care, (ii) family caregiver support, (iii) the provision of early-stage diagnoses, assistance, support, and medical services, (iv) younger onset of Alzheimer's or related disorders, (v) ethnic populations at higher risk, and (vi) risk reduction;

(b) Existing services, resources, and capacity available to individuals with Alzheimer's or related disorders, including:

(i) The type, cost, availability, and adequacy of services, including, (A) home and community-based resources, (B) respite care, (C) residential long-term care, and (D) geriatric-psychiatric units for individuals with associated behavioral disorders;

(ii) Dementia-specific training requirements for individuals who are employed to provide care to individuals with Alzheimer's or related disorders;

(iii) Quality of care measures for services delivered across the continuum of care;

(iv) The capacity of public safety and law enforcement to respond to individuals with Alzheimer's or related disorders; and

(v) State support to institutions of higher learning for research on
Alzheimer's or related disorders;

(c) The need for state policy or action in order to provide clear, coordinated services and support to individuals with Alzheimer's or related disorders and their families and caregivers; and

(d) Strategies to identify gaps in services.

Sec. 4. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.