

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 837  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H837-PCS40481-BR-16

Short Title: Make North Carolina More Dementia-Capable.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 24, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
3 DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (DAAS), TO UPDATE THE  
4 STRATEGIC STATE PLAN FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED  
5 DEMENTIAS (THE DEMENTIA-CAPABLE NORTH CAROLINA STATE PLAN) AT  
6 LEAST ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS AND TO MAINTAIN WITHIN THE DAAS A  
7 DEMENTIA SERVICES COORDINATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING AND  
8 UPDATING THE DEMENTIA-CAPABLE NORTH CAROLINA STATE PLAN; AND  
9 REQUIRING THE TASK FORCE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED  
10 DEMENTIAS TO MEET ON AT LEAST A QUARTERLY BASIS TO DEVELOP  
11 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPDATES TO THE DEMENTIA-CAPABLE NORTH  
12 CAROLINA STATE PLAN.

13 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

14 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143B-181.1 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 143B-181.1. Division of Aging and Adult Services. – creation, powers and duties.**

16 (a) There is hereby created within the office of the Secretary of the Department of Health  
17 and Human Services a Division of ~~Aging~~, Aging and Adult Services, which shall have the  
18 following functions and duties:

19 ...

20 (13) To develop a strategic State plan for Alzheimer's ~~disease~~; disease and other  
21 related dementias, which shall be known as the Dementia-Capable North  
22 Carolina State Plan. By January 1, 2025, and quadrennially thereafter, the  
23 Division of Aging and Adult Services shall update and submit this plan to the  
24 General Assembly. The plan shall address ways to improve at least all of the  
25 following with respect to Alzheimer's ~~disease~~; disease and related dementias:

- 26 a. Statewide awareness and education.  
27 b. Early detection and diagnosis.  
28 c. Care coordination.  
29 d. Quality of care.  
30 e. Health care system capacity.  
31 f. Training for health care professionals.  
32 g. Access to treatment.  
33 h. Home- and community-based services.  
34 i. Long-term care.  
35 j. Caregiver assistance.  
36 k. Research.



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- 1 l. Brain health.
- 2 m. Data collection.
- 3 n. Public safety and safety-related needs of individuals with Alzheimer's
- 4 ~~disease.~~disease and related dementias.
- 5 o. Legal protections for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and
- 6 related dementias, and their caregivers.
- 7 p. State policies to assist individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related
- 8 dementias, and their families.

9 ...."

10 **SECTION 2.** Part 14 of Article 3 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended  
11 by adding a new section to read:

12 "**§ 143B-181.2A. Dementia Services Coordinator – appointment and duties.**

13 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall appoint a coordinator within the  
14 Department of Health and Human Services for the Dementia-Capable North Carolina State Plan  
15 required by subdivision (a)(13) of G.S. 143B-181.1, whose title shall be Dementia Services  
16 Coordinator. In addition to the powers and duties delegated to the Dementia Services Coordinator  
17 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Dementia Services Coordinator shall oversee  
18 development, periodic updating, and implementation of the Dementia-Capable State Plan."

19 **SECTION 3.** Beginning October 1, 2023, the Department of Health and Human  
20 Services (Department), in partnership with the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, shall  
21 convene the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (also known as the  
22 Dementia-Capable North Carolina Task Force) on at least a quarterly basis each year to develop  
23 and submit recommendations to the Department for actionable, goal-oriented updates to the  
24 Dementia-Capable North Carolina State Plan required by subdivision (a)(13) of  
25 G.S. 143B-181.1.

26 **SECTION 4.** Throughout the General Statutes, the Revisor of Statutes shall replace  
27 the phrase "Division of Aging" with the phrase "Division of Aging and Adult Services."

28 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
29 law.