

**HOUSE BILL NO. 308**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE STUTES**

**Introduced: 2/7/22**

**Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to dementia awareness."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 18.09 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Article 2A. Dementia Awareness Program.**

5 **Sec. 18.09.300. Dementia awareness program.** (a) The department shall  
6 develop and implement a statewide dementia awareness program. The program must,  
7 to the extent consistent with state law, secure the full benefits available to the state  
8 under 42 U.S.C. 280c-3 - 280c-5.

9 (b) The department shall

10 (1) develop dementia educational materials and provide the materials  
11 to health boards, physicians, hospitals, and medical clinics for distribution to the  
12 public;

13 (2) develop targeted, job-specific educational programs related to  
14 dementia for judicial staff, law enforcement, firefighters, social service providers, and  
15 emergency responders that address recognizing symptoms of dementia and responding

1 to the needs of persons with dementia;

2 (3) maintain a list of state providers who diagnose, evaluate, or  
3 manage dementia;

4 (4) consult with the major state and national nonprofit organizations  
5 providing care and support for individuals living with dementia to develop  
6 informational material about the symptoms and treatment of dementia for a public  
7 awareness campaign;

8 (5) coordinate with the public and community organizations to develop  
9 and implement community-based programs and activities to educate the public about  
10 dementia; and

11 (6) implement a public awareness campaign designed to inform the  
12 public about dementia and encourage the public to seek diagnosis using a variety of  
13 media to

14 (A) publicize the scope and magnitude of dementia in the state;

15 (B) promote the benefits of early detection and diagnosis of  
16 dementia, including community events that emphasize the importance of  
17 seeking a diagnosis when an individual experiences symptoms of dementia;

18 (C) increase public awareness regarding the causes and nature  
19 of dementia, the available methods individuals and families may use to  
20 minimize the risk of developing dementia, including diet and physical exercise,  
21 and the services available in the state to diagnose and treat dementia;

22 (D) promote the availability and importance of the annual  
23 wellness visit available to Medicare recipients;

24 (E) publish easily understandable information about the  
25 symptoms and treatment of dementia on the department's Internet website; and

26 (F) disseminate the list of state providers who diagnose,  
27 evaluate, or manage dementia, a description of diagnostic procedures for  
28 identifying dementia, and a description of the current state of research on  
29 treatment of dementia.