

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 35
2 INTRODUCED BY G. PIERSON
3 BY REQUEST OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE
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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED
6 DEMENTIAS CAREGIVER RESPITE GRANT PROGRAM; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND
7 PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES."

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9 WHEREAS, in 2015, there were 49,000 family caregivers of Montanans with Alzheimer's disease or
10 related dementias who provided unpaid care at a value of \$679 million; and
11 WHEREAS, Montana ranks 49th in the nation for support of family caregivers; and
12 WHEREAS, 85% of family caregivers in Montana say respite care would help them be better caregivers;
13 and
14 WHEREAS, there is a shortage of trained respite caregivers.

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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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18 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias caregiver respite grant**
19 **program.** (1) There is a grant program in the department of public health and human services to support the use
20 of volunteers to provide respite care to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia.

21 (2) The department shall award grants to organizations to be used for:
22 (a) training individuals on how to care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias; and
23 (b) coordinating and overseeing volunteer respite care activities.
24 (3) (a) The department shall establish a grant application process and criteria for awarding grants.
25 (b) The department shall award a minimum of three grants a year to organizations that meet the criteria
26 for grant awards. At least two of the grants must be awarded to organizations in different regions of the state.

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28 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$240,000 from the general fund
29 to the department of public health and human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, to fund the
30 volunteer caregiver respite grant program established in [section 1].

1 (2) The appropriation must be used only for direct grants to organizations as provided in [section 1].

2 (3) The legislature intends that the appropriation be considered part of the ongoing base for the next
3 legislative session.

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5 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
6 integral part of Title 52, chapter 3, and the provisions of Title 52, chapter 3, apply to [section 1].

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8 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), [this act] is
9 effective on passage and approval.

10 (2) [Section 2] is effective July 1, 2017.

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