

HOUSE BILL 17

By Faison

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15,
Chapter 2, relative to designating May as "Silver
Alert Awareness Month."

WHEREAS, 120,000 Tennesseans have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias that may cause loss of memory and other cognitive functions; and

WHEREAS, the senior population is steadily growing, and the aging of the baby boomer generation will likely increase the numbers of Tennesseans with Alzheimer's by seventeen percent over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, six out of ten individuals with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease will wander at some time during the course of the disease; and

WHEREAS, half of seniors and others with dementia who wander away from home on foot or in a car sustain injuries if they are not found within twenty-four hours; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Tennessee families do not have a plan in place in case their loved one wanders away from home; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed legislation to update the Silver Alert law in 2021 that created greater collaboration between local law enforcement and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and incorporated greater cooperation with the media; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Silver Alert law has resulted in more Tennesseans being returned safely to their families after wandering; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly adopted Senate Joint Resolution 916 to commemorate May 2022 as "Silver Alert Awareness Month"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to designate May of each year as "Silver Alert Awareness Month"; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The month of May is observed annually as "Silver Alert Awareness Month" in this state.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.