

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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NJSA: 36:2-23 ("Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month")

LAWS OF: 1991 CHAPTER: 319

Bill No: A838

Sponsor(s): Bush

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: Health & Human Services

Senate: ---

Amended during passage: No

Date of Passage: Assembly: October 18, 1990

Senate: September 26, 1991

Date of Approval: November 20, 1991

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly: Yes

Senate: No

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

KBG/dgw

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ASSEMBLY, No. 838

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1990 SESSION

By Assemblywoman BUSH

1 AN ACT permanently designating the month of November as
2 "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month."
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4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
5 State of New Jersey:

6 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

7 a. Alzheimer's Disease is a terminal, organic brain disease of
8 unknown origin that causes steady brain deterioration and leads
9 to a complete breakdown of a person's ability to communicate,
10 move about, or control bodily functions and eventually results in
11 death;

12 b. Alzheimer's Disease is the fourth leading cause of death in
13 the United States and affects two to four million Americans
14 between the ages of 40 and 80, including about 400,000 residents
15 of New Jersey;

16 c. While presently incurable, Alzheimer's Disease is often
17 confused with other diseases of intellectual impairment, thus
18 necessitating that the specific diagnosis of a person's medical
19 conditions be conducted with great care, since the other causes
20 of impairment can be treated;

21 d. Alzheimer's Disease has been called a disease which not
22 only "robs the mind of the victim" but "breaks the heart of the
23 family" because it inflicts tremendous burdens on loved ones who
24 must endure emotional, social, physical and financial stress while
25 providing care and comfort to the victim of this ever-worsening
26 disease; and

27 e. While research continues in a search for cures and controls
28 for this devastating disease, it is important that citizens of this
29 State develop an awareness of the nature of Alzheimer's Disease,
30 understand the toll it takes on the victim and his or her family,
31 encourage the development of support and assistance groups for
32 these families, and promote efforts for advocacy for the needs of
33 those afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease and their caregivers.

34 2. The month of November is permanently designated as
35 "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month" in the State of New
36 Jersey.

37 3. The Governor and the Legislature urge all citizens to
38 recognize "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month" and to
39 provide encouragement and assistance to those organizations that
40 offer educational, advocacy and support services for Alzheimer's
41 victims and their caregivers.

42 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

A838

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HEALTH

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3 Designates November as "Alzheimer's Disease

4 Month."

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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This bill permanently designates the month of November as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month." It is designed to promote knowledge of this terrible disease and to encourage public support for agencies involved in providing educational, advocacy and support services for Alzheimer's victims and their families, such as the Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Network of Mercer County.

HEALTH

Designates November as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month."

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 838

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 8, 1990

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 838.

This bill would permanently designate the month of November as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month." It is designed to promote knowledge of this terrible disease and to encourage public support for agencies involved in providing educational, advocacy and support services for Alzheimer's victims and their families, such as the Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Network of Mercer County.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 1990-1991 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

CN-001
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TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: Wednesday
Nov. 20, 1991

GOVERNOR FLORIO SIGNS ANNUAL ALZHEIMER'S RECOGNITION

The month of November will annually be set aside as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month" under legislation signed today by Governor Jim Florio, aimed at boosting public awareness of what he called "one of the silent challenges of the modern world."

"Alzheimer's Disease doesn't just happen to strangers. It happens to people we know and love. Real people are suffering from Alzheimers. They're our parents and our grandparents, and this disease is especially cruel to them because it robs them of their lifetime of memories. It steals away their strength and self control, and most of all it strips away their dignity," said Governor Florio.

"But they're not the only victims of this disease. Because Alzheimer's Disease doesn't just affect individuals. It has a profound affect on families, who are forced to watch the people they love slip away from them. And as they try to care for the parent or grandparent suffering from Alzheimers, they find there's an enormous emotional, physical and mental cost to that care," he said.

The disease, which is the fourth leading cause of death in the country, is one of the major problems affecting the elderly in New Jersey. Nationwide, the disease affects between two to four million Americans between the ages of 40 and 80; in New Jersey, approximately 400,000 residents are directly or indirectly affected by Alzheimers.

The bill, A 838/S502/2382, sponsored by Assemblywoman Stephanie Bush, and Senators Gerald Stockman and Thomas Paterniti, defines the disease as a terminal, organic brain disease of unknown origin which causes steady brain deterioration and leads to a complete breakdown of a person's ability to communicate, move about, or control bodily functions, eventually leading to death.

"I'm pleased to sign this bill and it's my hope that people throughout New Jersey will take the time to learn more and educate themselves about Alzheimer's Disease, one of the silent challenges of the modern world. It's a small step, but it's an

important one because it guarantees that we'll focus our attention on the growing numbers of people who need help and support," he said.

The legislation is designed to promote public awareness of the disease and to encourage citizens to assist organizations that provide education, advocacy and support services for Alzheimer's victims and their caregivers. November is the month nationally recognized through the Alzheimer Association of the United States.

"All over the state, in every community, you'll find support groups and organizations that are there to help and offer assistance, even if it's just giving the caregivers a break from their constant worries and concerns," said Governor Florio. "It's important that people learn as much as they can about Alzheimers. It's also important for the caregivers to know that they're not alone"

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