

# HOUSE BILL 572

P1

5lr1694  
CF SB 400

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By: **Delegates Cullison, Barkley, Clippinger, Ebersole, Fraser-Hidalgo, Ghrist, Gilchrist, Hayes, Haynes, Hill, Hixson, Kelly, Kipke, Kramer, Krebs, Lam, Luedtke, McDonough, A. Miller, Moon, Morales, Morhaim, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Proctor, Reznik, Smith, Valentino-Smith, M. Washington, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Commemorative Months – Alzheimer’s and Brain**  
3 **Awareness Month**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain month as  
5 Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month and to urge the Department of Health and  
6 Mental Hygiene and the Department of Aging, in conjunction with certain entities,  
7 to properly observe Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month with appropriate  
8 programs, ceremonies, and activities, including certain summits and updates; and  
9 generally relating to Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month.

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – General Provisions  
12 Section 7–504 through 7–506, respectively  
13 to be Section 7–505 through 7–507, respectively  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2014 Volume)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – General Provisions  
18 Section 7–504  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2014 Volume)

21 Preamble

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative brain disorder,  
2 tragically robs individuals of their memories and leads to progressive mental and physical  
3 impairments; and

4 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United  
5 States, the ninth-leading cause of death in Maryland, and is the only cause of death in the  
6 top ten that has no cure, no treatment, and no way to slow its progression; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 5,000,000 people in the United States are living with  
8 Alzheimer's disease, including 97,000 Marylanders; and

9 WHEREAS, The cost of caring for people with Alzheimer's disease in the United  
10 States exceeds \$200 billion per year, and those costs are expected to rise dramatically with  
11 the increase in the numbers of older people in the coming decades; and

12 WHEREAS, There are over 286,000 dedicated caregivers in Maryland who provide  
13 unpaid care at home valued at more than \$4 billion; and

14 WHEREAS, Medicare and most private health insurance do not cover the long-term  
15 services and support that most people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia need; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer's disease  
17 indirectly costs businesses up to \$37 billion a year in lost productivity for employees who  
18 miss work or leave their jobs to provide care for a relative; and

19 WHEREAS, Researchers in Maryland and around the world continue their efforts to  
20 develop scientific breakthroughs that could one day bring about a world without  
21 Alzheimer's disease; and

22 WHEREAS, There is a need to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and to  
23 honor all the caregivers who support and care for loved ones with Alzheimer's disease; now,  
24 therefore,

25 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
26 That Section(s) 7-504 through 7-506, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-505 through 7-507,  
28 respectively.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
30 as follows:

31 **Article – General Provisions**

32 **7-504.**

33 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM JUNE AS ALZHEIMER'S**  
34 **AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH IN RECOGNITION OF ALL MARYLANDERS,**

1 INCLUDING FAMILY CAREGIVERS, WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY ALZHEIMER'S  
2 DISEASE AND OTHER BRAIN-RELATED DISEASES.

3 (B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
4 MENTAL HYGIENE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
5 RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH AND ADVOCACY ENTITIES, TO OBSERVE ALZHEIMER'S  
6 AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH PROPERLY WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS,  
7 CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:

8 (1) CAREGIVER SUMMITS IN HONOR OF THE LONGEST DAY TEAM  
9 EVENT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING CAREGIVING NEEDS, CHALLENGES,  
10 AND BARRIERS; AND

11 (2) AS APPROPRIATE, UPDATES FROM THE VIRGINIA I. JONES  
12 ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS COUNCIL.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2015.