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As of: April 28, 2016 (10:23am)

LCcf04

**** Bill No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act appropriating money to the department of public health and human services to be allocated to the state's area agencies on aging; requiring a report; and providing an effective date."

WHEREAS, over the next 10 years the number of Montanans and their families dealing with the challenges of Alzheimer's disease is expected to increase by 42%; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most costly disease in the United States; and

WHEREAS, studies show that about half of the individuals meeting the criteria for Alzheimer's disease and other types of neurocognitive disorders are not diagnosed by a physician; and

WHEREAS, Area Agencies on Aging are the front line and primary source of community-based services for seniors and their families, regardless of income; and

WHEREAS, Area Agencies on Aging provide in-home and community-based services that prevent or delay institutionalization, including information about and assistance with accessing public benefits and local community services, meals, housekeeping, transportation, personal care, care planning, respite, and caregiver training; and

WHEREAS, Area Agencies on Aging have experience serving

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individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families; and

WHEREAS, overall funding for Area Agencies on Aging has not kept pace with the increasing demand for services resulting from the increase in Montana's aging population and the higher cost of doing business; and

WHEREAS, many Area Agencies on Aging have waiting lists for services and have reduced the frequency or scope of certain services due to budget constraints.

THEREFORE, the Legislature of the State of Montana finds it necessary to appropriate additional money to Area Agencies on Aging to help fund their services, including those for the growing number of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their family caregivers. The appropriation will allow Area Agencies on Aging to:

(1) help individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families to navigate the long-term care system by providing education and information about resources and assistance with accessing available programs and services;

(2) provide caregiver respite, housekeeping, transportation, meals, and other in-home and community-based services that support individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias staying in their homes and communities and help prevent or delay costly institutionalization;

(3) provide family caregivers with training, such as the Powerful Tools for Caregivers program, and assistance for connecting with support groups; and

(4) engage in targeted outreach efforts and form collaborative partnerships with local health care providers to identify individuals and families in need of assistance.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Appropriation -- report.** (1) There is appropriated \$1.5 million from the general fund to the department of public health and human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, to be allocated to the state's area agencies on aging.

(2) The area agencies on aging shall report by no later than September 15, 2018, to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee concerning how the appropriation was used for outreach and services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and for their families.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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