

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 6, 1997

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 324

Introduced by Assembly Member Baldwin
(Principal coauthor: Senator Peace)

February 14, 1997

An act to add Section 1012.5 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 324, as amended, Baldwin. Veterans ~~home: Alzheimer's Disease~~ *Organic Brain Syndrome* and related dementia.

Existing law provides for the establishment and operation of the Veterans' Home of California at various sites for aged and disabled veterans who meet certain eligibility criteria.

This bill would require the ~~Director of Veterans Affairs and the administrator of the home to ensure that the home meets the staffing, licensure, and other requirements for providing all health care and related services to members of the home who are afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or other related dementia diseases~~ *Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on adequate and appropriate care for veterans afflicted with Organic Brain Syndrome, including Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia diseases or afflictions, and to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on or before June 30, 1998.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 1012.5 is added to the Military~~
2 ~~and Veterans Code, to read:~~

3 ~~1012.5. The director and the administrator shall~~
4 ~~ensure that the home meets the staffing, licensure, and~~
5 ~~other requirements for providing all health care and~~
6 ~~related services for members of the home who are~~
7 ~~afflicted with Alzheimer’s Disease or other related~~
8 ~~dementia diseases.~~

9 *SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature in*
10 *enacting this act to study the level of need for the care of*
11 *veterans who have been diagnosed with Organic Brain*
12 *Syndrome, including Alzheimer’s disease and other*
13 *related dementia diseases or afflictions. It is further the*
14 *intent of the Legislature to develop a plan for adequate*
15 *staff and facilities to provide these veterans with*
16 *appropriate care and treatment.*

17 *SEC. 2. Section 1012.5 is added to the Military and*
18 *Veterans Code, to read:*

19 *1012.5. (a) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall*
20 *conduct a study to determine what is adequate and*
21 *appropriate care for veterans diagnosed with Organic*
22 *Brain Syndrome, including Alzheimer’s disease and other*
23 *related dementia diseases or afflictions. The study shall*
24 *include, but shall not be limited to:*

25 *(1) An assessment of the level of staffing and facilities*
26 *needed for the care of these veterans. This assessment*
27 *shall include a short-term and long-term projection of*
28 *level of need for current members of the homes and*
29 *veterans who are diagnosed with Organic Brain*
30 *Syndrome but who are not current members of the*
31 *homes.*

32 *(2) In conjunction with the State Department of*
33 *Health Services, the Department of Aging, Commission*
34 *on Aging, the Department of Finance, California*
35 *Veteran’s Board, and the Alzheimer’s Association, the*



1 *provision of coordinated health care and related services*
2 *to these veterans.*

3 *(3) Use of existing services, programs, and resources*
4 *for the treatment and care of these veterans.*

5 *(4) An assessment of additional services, programs,*
6 *and resources needed for the treatment and care of these*
7 *veterans.*

8 *(5) Pursuit of grant funding to conduct research on the*
9 *care and treatment of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's*
10 *disease to be conducted at the veterans' homes.*

11 *(6) An estimate of the associated costs of the staffing,*
12 *facilities, and programs necessary to provide adequate*
13 *and appropriate care of these veterans.*

14 *(b) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall submit*
15 *the findings of its study to the Governor, the Legislative*
16 *Analyst's Office, the Assembly Governmental*
17 *Organization Committee, and the Senate Veterans*
18 *Affairs Committee on or before June 30, 1998.*

19 *(c) Performance of the duties set forth in subdivisions*
20 *(a) and (b) shall not have the effect of diminishing, or in*
21 *any way interfering with, the department's discretion to*
22 *also proceed with any additional, current, or future*
23 *administrative efforts to achieve the goals set forth in this*
24 *section.*

