

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTERS AND CHASSION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of motor vehicles to study the necessity of special identification cards for Louisiana citizens with Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases; including, the types of proof required from a physician of the condition, the necessary information required on the identification card, waiver of fees for obtaining the identification cards, and the potential expiration and renewal of identification cards.

WHEREAS, R.S. 40:1321(C) requires a fee of fifteen dollars for the issuance or renewal of a special identification card; and

WHEREAS, upon presentation of a voter registration card or certificate, the fee applicable to the issuance or renewal of a special identification card is waived for any person who does not have a Louisiana driver's license; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 40:1321(S) provides for Louisiana citizens with autism to request a special state identification card designation indicating the person has autism spectrum disorder or seizure disorder exhibited on the card; and

WHEREAS, one major requirement for a special identification card is the presentation of a statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional licensed in Louisiana or any other state or territory in the United States verifying the person's disability as established by administrative rule; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana does not require an additional fee for the designation on special identification cards; and

WHEREAS, the difference between the special identification cards for Louisiana citizens with autism and other identification cards is the indication to "Autism", appearing below the picture of the person; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2025 special report by the Alzheimer's Association, there is a distinction between dementia and Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, dementia is an overall term for a particular group of symptoms that is caused by many different conditions; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia symptoms, involving different types of brain changes; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alzheimer's Association, approximately ninety-four thousand seven hundred citizens, aged sixty-five and older, in Louisiana have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alzheimer's Association, approximately one hundred sixty-eight family members and friends serve as unpaid care givers for Louisiana citizens with Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, according to Louisiana State University's Healthy Aging Research Center, Louisiana was among the five states with the highest occurrence of Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease and related dementia diseases have grown one hundred forty-five percent over the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the MedicAlert Foundation is one of the many organizations that provide a special medical identification card for people with Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases; and

WHEREAS, these special medical identification cards include the disease, the impairments, the name of the person, "Call MedicAlert", or any other important phone numbers; and

WHEREAS, the MedicAlert Foundation reports that six out of ten people with dementia will wander from safety and are incapable of telling others where they live or how to contact their care givers; and

WHEREAS, statistics further show that if people with dementia are not located within a few hours, the odds of injury and death increase dramatically; and

WHEREAS, according to the MedicAlert Foundation, approximately five hundred people who wander from their safe environment are located using their MedicAlert identification cards; and

WHEREAS, the possession of a special identification card for those with Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases is essential to protecting those citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, many with Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases have limited access to travel due to an inability to drive; and

WHEREAS, the state of California offers a "homebound program" for citizens with disabilities who are unable to go to the office of motor vehicles in-person; and

WHEREAS, the debilitating nature of Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases causes many with these diseases to become unemployable and unemployed; and

WHEREAS, according to the resource center for dementia, Dementia Care Central, the average cost for memory care in Louisiana is approximately four thousand five hundred seventy-two dollars.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of motor vehicles to study the feasibility and potential methods of offering special identification cards to citizens with Alzheimer's or related dementia diseases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of motor vehicles shall study the following:

(1) Laws and ordinances that establish procedure for obtaining Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases identification cards.

(2) The feasibility of creating alternative methods for obtaining identification in person.

(3) The feasibility of offering extended expiration dates for special identification cards.

(4) The feasibility of waiving fees for Louisiana citizens applying for Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases identification cards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of motor vehicles shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Transportation, Highway and Public Works committees prior to July 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the office of motor vehicles.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE