

H.199 (changes to statute regarding the Alzheimer's Commission)

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Benefits of having the House and Senate be represented on the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders:

- 1) It provides a direct communication link between the Commission and the Legislature on a topic of great importance to our future, given that there is a continuing significant increase in older Vermonters.
- 2) There will be increasing needs for services for individuals with any form of dementia and the need to plan for delivery and funding for those services. An established partnership between the Legislature and the Commission will be valuable in the discussions in those areas.
- 3) When legislation is needed to address aspects of those issues, it is important to have a member in each body who has a good knowledge base from which to champion that legislation.

Benefits of removing term limits on Commission Members:

- 1) It can be difficult to find well qualified members to represent each of the groups specified in statute, so losing a member who has good experience and knowledge regarding dementia simply because of an arbitrary term limit is not in the best interest of Vermonters.
- 2) Reappointment to the Commission is not automatic. The Governor reappoints each member each time his/her term is up, so if it is felt that reappointment of a member is undesirable for some reason, the Governor can choose to appoint a different person to that slot.