

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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2025 Regular Session

Walters

Urges and requests that the office of motor vehicles (OMV) study the necessity for special identification cards for citizens with Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases, the potential threat to the safety of La. citizens, and the feasibility of waiving fees for special identification cards for La. citizens with Alzheimer's and related dementia diseases. Requires the OMV to submit a written report to the House and Senate Transportation, Highways and Public Works committees prior to July 1, 2026.