



Substitute Senate Bill No. 827

Public Act No. 19-115

AN ACT CONCERNING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA TRAINING AND BEST PRACTICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 20-10b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of this section, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing medical education within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing medical education shall (1) be in an area of the physician's practice; (2) reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public; and (3) during the first renewal period in which continuing medical education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter, include at least one contact hour of training or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management, including, but not limited to, for registration periods beginning on or after October 1, 2015, prescribing controlled substances and pain management, (C) sexual assault, (D) domestic violence, (E) cultural

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competency, and (F) behavioral health, provided further that on and after January 1, 2016, such behavioral health continuing medical education may include, but not be limited to, at least two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter, on [the topic of mental health conditions] diagnosing and treating (i) cognitive conditions, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, delirium, related cognitive impairments and geriatric depression, or (ii) mental health conditions, including, but not limited to, mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans. [, including (i)] Training for mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans shall include best practices for (I) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, [(ii)] (II) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and [(iii)] (III) suicide prevention training. For purposes of this section, qualifying continuing medical education activities include, but are not limited to, courses offered or approved by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut State Medical Society, Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society, county medical societies or equivalent organizations in another jurisdiction, educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other health care institution or courses offered by a regionally accredited academic institution or a state or local health department. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may grant a waiver for not more than ten contact hours of continuing medical education for a physician who: (i) Engages in activities related to the physician's service as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, established pursuant to section 20-8a; (ii) engages in activities related to the physician's service as a member of a medical hearing panel, pursuant to section 20-8a; or (iii) assists the department with its duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-14.

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Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 20-94d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2020*):

(b) Except as provided in this section, for registration periods beginning on and after October 1, 2014, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing education within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing education shall: (1) Be in an area of the advanced practice registered nurse's practice; (2) reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs of the public; (3) include at least five contact hours of training or education in pharmacotherapeutics; (4) include at least one contact hour of training or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management, (C) sexual assault, (D) domestic violence, (E) cultural competency, and (F) substance abuse, including, but not limited to, prescribing controlled substances and pain management; [and] (5) on and after January 1, 2016, include not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter on the topic of mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (A) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (B) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (C) suicide prevention training; and (6) on and after January 1, 2020, may include not less than two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal period in which continuing education is required and not less than once every six years thereafter in diagnosing and treating cognitive or mental health conditions, including, but not limited to, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, delirium, related cognitive impairments and geriatric depression. For purposes

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of this section, qualifying continuing education activities include, but are not limited to, courses, including on-line courses, offered or approved by the American Nurses Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut Nurses Association, Connecticut League for Nursing, a specialty nursing society or an equivalent organization in another jurisdiction, an educational offering sponsored by a hospital or other health care institution or a course offered by a regionally accredited academic institution or a state or local health department. The commissioner may grant a waiver of not more than ten contact hours of continuing education for an advanced practice registered nurse who: [(i)] (A) Engages in activities related to the advanced practice registered nurse's service as a member of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing, established pursuant to section 20-88; or [(ii)] (B) assists the department with its duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-14.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors shall convene a working group to review the recommendations of the task force established pursuant to section 1 of special act 13-11, determine gaps in implementation of the task force's recommendations and make recommendations concerning best practices for Alzheimer's disease and dementia care.

(b) The working group shall be comprised of: (1) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, or the executive director's designee, who shall be chairperson of the working group; (2) the executive director of the Connecticut chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, or the executive director's designee; (3) the Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the executive director of the Connecticut chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, or the executive director's designee; (5) the State Ombudsman, or the State Ombudsman's

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designee; and (6) (A) a family representative of a person with Alzheimer's disease, (B) a family representative of a person with dementia, (C) a person diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, and (D) a health care professional with expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, all appointed by the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors.

(c) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors shall make appointments and convene the working group not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by said executive director.

(d) The administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(e) Not later than January 30, 2020, the working group shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or December 1, 2020, whichever is later.

Approved July 1, 2019