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 Subsection (b) of section 20-10b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(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 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 common to veterans and family members of veterans, including (i) determining whether a patient is a veteran or family member of a veteran, (ii) screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and (iii) suicide prevention training. On and after July 1, 2023, a licensee applying for license renewal shall also have completed a one-time course not exceeding eight hours on the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, provided the commissioner shall waive this requirement for a licensee who is not engaged in direct primary care or emergency treatment of adults. 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)] (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)] (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)] (III) assists the department with its duties to boards and commissions as described
in section 19a-14.

Sec. 2. Section 20-12g of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

The department [may] shall, with the advice and assistance of the board, promulgate regulations regarding the renewal of licenses granted pursuant to section 20-12b, including a requirement that, on and after July 1, 2023, a licensee applying for license renewal shall have completed a one-time course not exceeding eight hours on the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, provided the commissioner shall waive this requirement for a licensee who is not engaged in direct primary care or emergency treatment of adults. The department may promulgate such other regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of sections 20-12a to 20-12f, inclusive.

Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 20-94d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(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. On and after July 1, 2023, a licensee
applying for license renewal shall also have completed a one-time
course not exceeding eight hours on the diagnosis, treatment and care
of patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, provided the
commissioner shall waive this requirement for a licensee who is not
engaged in direct primary care or emergency treatment of adults. For
purposes 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) 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) assists the department with its duties to boards and commissions
as described in section 19a-14.

Sec. 4. Section 20-99a of the general statutes is repealed and the
following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

The Department of Public Health shall, with the advice and
assistance of the board, promulgate regulations regarding the renewal
of licenses granted pursuant to sections 20-93, 20-94, 20-96 and 20-97,
including a requirement that, on and after July 1, 2023, a licensee
applying for license renewal shall have completed a one-time course not exceeding eight hours on the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, provided the department shall waive this requirement for a licensee who is not engaged in direct primary care or emergency treatment of adults. The department may adopt other regulations necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

Sec. 5. (Effective from passage) (a) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall establish 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 Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, or the commissioner's designee; and (2)(A) the executive director of the Connecticut chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, or the executive director's designee; (B) the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, or the executive director's designee; (C) the executive director of the Connecticut chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, or the executive director's designee; (D) the State Ombudsman, or a representative of the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman; (E) a family representative of a person with Alzheimer's disease; (F) a family representative of a person with dementia; and (G) a health care professional with expertise in diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

(c) The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services shall make all appointments to the working group not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the commissioner, who shall serve as chairperson of the working group.

(d) The administrative staff of the Department of Rehabilitation Services shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.
(e) Not later than November 30, 2019, 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.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
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<th>Section Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>20-10b(b)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>20-12g</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>20-94d(b)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>20-99a</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>from passage</td>
<td>New section</td>
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**Statement of Purpose:**
To require certain health care professionals who provide primary care or emergency treatment for adults to receive training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and dementia and to establish a working group to develop recommendations on improving the care of Alzheimer's disease and dementia patients.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]