OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 827

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

SUMMARY

Starting July 1, 2023, this bill requires physicians; physician assistants (PAs); and advanced practice, licensed practical, and registered nurses applying for license renewal to have completed a one-time course of up to eight hours on (1) the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, delirium, and related cognitive impairments and (2) geriatric depression. The training requirement is in addition to existing law’s requirement for continuing education (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner must waive the training requirement for a physician, PA, or nurse who provides satisfactory documentation that he or she does not provide direct primary care or emergency care to adults. The bill also requires DPH, with assistance from the Connecticut Medical Examining Board and Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing, to promulgate regulations implementing the training requirement with respect to PAs and nurses, respectively.

The bill also requires, rather than allows, DPH to promulgate regulations regarding license renewals for PAs.

Lastly, the bill requires the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) commissioner to establish a nine-member working group on Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia. The working group must report its findings and recommendations by November 30, 2019, to the Aging Committee and terminates on the date it submits its report, or December 1, 2020, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the provisions establishing
the working group takes effect upon passage.

**WORKING GROUP ON ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA**

**Duties**

The bill requires the DORS commissioner to establish a nine-member working group to (1) review the recommendations of the Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia established by SA 13-11, (2) determine gaps in implementing these recommendations, and (3) make recommendations on best practices for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia care.

By law, SA 13-11 created a 23-member Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia charged with analyzing and making recommendations on Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, including (1) service provision, (2) legislative policy changes, (3) state and private agency coordination, and (4) placement of individuals with these conditions in health care facilities and community settings. The task force reported its findings and recommendations to the legislature in 2014.

**Membership**

Under the bill, the working group consists of the following nine members:

1. the DORS commissioner, or her designee;

2. the executive directors of the Connecticut chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association; the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors; and the Connecticut chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, or their designees;

3. the long-term care ombudsman, or her representative;

4. one family representative each of a person with Alzheimer’s disease and a person with dementia;

5. one person diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia; and
6. one health care professional with expertise in diagnosing and treating Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.

The bill requires the DORS commissioner to make all appointments to the working group within 30 days after the bill’s passage and fill any vacancy. The department’s administrative staff serve as the working group’s administrative staff.

Under the bill, the executive director of the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors serves as the working group’s chairperson.

BACKGROUND

Continuing Education

By law, physicians and advanced practice registered nurses must generally complete 50 contact hours of continuing education every two years, starting with their second license renewal.

PAs must (1) meet the continuing education requirements of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and (2) complete at least one contact hour of continuing education in prescribing controlled substances and pain management every two years.

Registered and licensed practical nurses are not required to complete continuing education to renew their licenses (CGS § 19a-88).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 11  Nay 0  (02/26/2019)