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Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 314
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Pending in Senate Health (I_136_1402-1)

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Craig and Liston

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SUMMARY

- Requires nurse aides working in long-term care facilities and residential care facilities to complete at least two hours of dementia-specific training.
- Requires long-term care facilities and residential care facilities to provide at least two hours of annual in-service dementia-specific education.
- Permits the Department of Health to discipline long-term care facilities and residential care facilities that employ nurse aides who have not completed dementia-specific training.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Dementia-specific training

S.B. 314 requires long-term care facilities (nursing homes or Medicare- or Medicaid-certified skilled nursing facilities or nursing facilities) and residential care facilities (commonly referred to as assisted living facilities) to require each nurse aide providing direct care to complete at least two hours of dementia-specific training approved by the Director of Health. The requirement takes effect not later than 180 days after the bill's effective date. The dementia-specific training must cover the following topics:¹

- An overview of dementia, including its different types;
- Communication techniques for interacting with people with dementia;
- Behavioral symptoms of people with dementia and management of those symptoms;

¹ R.C. 3721.36(B).

- Person-centered care practices;
- Promotion of dignity, independence, and quality of life for people with dementia;
- Residents' rights under Ohio law.

Dementia-specific training programs approved by the Director may be (1) accredited in-person or online courses, (2) programs developed or endorsed by recognized dementia care organizations such as the essentiALZ program offered by the Alzheimer's Association, (3) state-provided or state-licensed training modules, or (4) programs developed by a long-term care facility or residential care facility.²

A nurse aide is prohibited from providing direct care to residents with dementia until the nurse aide has completed the training.³

In-service education

The bill requires each long-term care facility and residential care facility to provide two hours of annual dementia-specific training to nurse aides providing nursing and nursing-related services to residents and patients with cognitive impairments. The in-service training must cover the same topics as the initial training.⁴

Compliance

Each long-term care facility and residential care facility must maintain records of the dementia-specific training completed by each nurse aide employed by the facility. If a long-term care facility or residential care facility does not ensure that nurse aides receive the required dementia-specific training, the Director may impose a fine and determine the amount of that fine, request that the facility submit an acceptable plan of correction, or revoke the facility's license.⁵

Designation

The act is designated as the "Ohio Dementia Care Training Act for Nurse Aides."⁶

² R.C. 3721.36(C).

³ R.C. 3721.36(E).

⁴ R.C. 3721.36(F).

⁵ R.C. 3721.36(D) and (F).

⁶ Section 2.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-04-25
