As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session 2025-2026

S. B. No. 314

Senators Craig, Liston

Cosponsors: Senators Ingram, Hicks-Hudson, DeMora, Weinstein

To	amend sections 3721.28, 3721.29, and 3721.30 of	1
	the Revised Code to enact the Ohio Dementia Care	2
	Training Act for Nurse Aides.	3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3721.28, 3721.29, and 3721.30 of	4
the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	5
Sec. 3721.28. (A)(1) Each nurse aide used by a long-term	6
care facility on a full-time, temporary, per diem, or other	7
basis on July 1, 1989, shall be provided by the facility a	8
competency evaluation program approved by the director of health	9
under division (A) of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code or	10
conducted by the director under division (C) of that section.	11
Each long-term care facility using a nurse aide on July 1, 1989,	12
shall provide the nurse aide the preparation necessary to	13
complete the competency evaluation program by January 1, 1990.	14
(2) Each nurse aide used by a long-term care facility on a	15
full-time, temporary, per diem, or other basis on January 1,	16
1990, who either was not used by the facility on July 1, 1989,	17
or was used by the facility on July 1, 1989, but had not	18
successfully completed a competency evaluation program by	19

January 1, 1990, shall be provided by the facility a competency	20
evaluation program approved by the director under division (A)	21
of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code or conducted by the	22
director under division (C) of that section. Each long-term care	23
facility using a nurse aide described in division (A)(2) of this	24
section shall provide the nurse aide the preparation necessary	25
to complete the competency evaluation program by October 1,	26
1990, and shall assist the nurse aide in registering for the	27
program.	28
(B) Effective June 1, 1990, no long-term care facility	29
shall use an individual as a nurse aide for more than four	30
months unless the individual is competent to provide the	31
services the individual is to provide, the facility has received	32
from the nurse aide registry established under section 3721.32	33
of the Revised Code the information concerning the individual	34
provided through the registry, and one of the following is the	35
case:	36
(1) The individual was used by a facility as a nurse aide	37
on a full-time, temporary, per diem, or other basis at any time	38
during the period commencing July 1, 1989, and ending January 1,	39
1990, and successfully completed, not later than October 1,	40
1990, a competency evaluation program approved by the director	41
under division (A) of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code or	42
conducted by the director under division (C) of that section.	43
(2) The individual has successfully completed a training	44
and competency evaluation program approved by the director under	45
division (A) of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code or conducted	46
by the director under division (C) of that section or has met	47
the conditions specified in division (F)(1) or (2) of this	48

section and, in addition, if the training and competency

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evaluation program or the training, instruction, or education	50
the individual completed in meeting the conditions specified in	51
division (F)(1) or (2) of this section was conducted by or in a	52
long-term care facility, the individual has successfully	53
completed a competency evaluation program conducted by the	54
director.	55
(3) Prior to July 1, 1989, if the long-term care facility	56
is certified as a skilled nursing facility or a nursing facility	57
under Title XVIII or XIX of the "Social Security Act," 49 Stat.	58
620 (1935), 42 U.S.C.A. 301, as amended, or prior to January 1,	59
1990, if the facility is not so certified, the individual	60
completed a program that the director determines included a	61
competency evaluation component no less stringent than the	62
competency evaluation programs approved by the director under	63
division (A) of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code or conducted	64
by the director under division (C) of that section, and was	65
otherwise comparable to the training and competency evaluation	66
programs being approved by the director under division (A) of	67
that section.	68
(4) The individual is listed in a nurse aide registry	69
maintained by another state and that state certifies that its	70
program for training and evaluation of competency of nurse aides	71
complies with Titles XVIII and XIX of the "Social Security Act"	72
and regulations adopted thereunder.	73
(5) Prior to July 1, 1989, the individual was found	74
competent to serve as a nurse aide after the completion of a	75
course of nurse aide training of at least one hundred hours'	76
duration.	77
(6) The individual is enrolled in a prelicensure program	78

of nursing education approved by the board of nursing or by an

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agency of another state that regulates nursing education, has provided the long-term care facility with a certificate from the program indicating that the individual has successfully completed the courses that teach basic nursing skills including infection control, safety and emergency procedures, and personal care, and has successfully completed a competency evaluation program conducted by the director under division (C) of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code.

- (7) The individual has the equivalent of twelve months or more of full-time employment in the preceding five years as a hospital aide or orderly and has successfully completed a competency evaluation program conducted by the director under division (C) of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code.
- (8) The individual has successfully completed a prelicensure program of nursing education approved by the board of nursing under section 4723.06 of the Revised Code or by an agency of another state that regulates nursing education and has passed the examination accepted by the board of nursing under section 4723.10 of the Revised Code, which shall be deemed as the successful completion of a competency evaluation program conducted by the director under division (C) of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code.
- (C) Effective June 1, 1990, no long-term care facility shall continue for longer than four months to use as a nurse aide an individual who previously met the requirements of division (B) of this section but since most recently doing so has not performed nursing and nursing-related services for monetary compensation for twenty-four consecutive months, unless the individual successfully completes additional training and competency evaluation by complying with divisions (C)(1) and (2)

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of this section:	110
(1) Doing one of the following:	111
(a) Successfully completing a training and competency	112
evaluation program approved by the director under division (A)	113
of section 3721.31 of the Revised Code or conducted by the	114
director under division (C) of that section;	115
(b) Successfully completing a training and competency	116
evaluation program described in division (B)(4) of this section;	117
(c) Meeting the requirements specified in division (B)(6)	118
or (7) of this section.	119
(2) If the training and competency evaluation program	120
completed under division (C)(1)(a) of this section was conducted	121
by or in a long-term care facility, successfully completing a	122
competency evaluation program conducted by the director.	123
(D)(1) The four-month periods provided for in divisions	124
(B) and (C) of this section include any time, on or after June	125
1, 1990, that an individual is used as a nurse aide on a full-	126
time, temporary, per diem, or any other basis by the facility or	127
any other long-term care facility.	128
(2) During the four-month period provided for in division	129
(B) of this section, during which a long-term care facility may,	130
subject to division (E) of this section, use as a nurse aide an	131
individual who does not have the qualifications specified in	132
divisions (B)(1) to (7) of this section, a facility shall	133
require the individual to comply with divisions (D)(2)(a) and	134
(b) of this section:	135
(a) Participate in one of the following:	136
(i) If the individual has successfully completed a	137

training and competency evaluation program approved by the	138
director under division (A) of section 3721.31 of the Revised	139
Code, and the program was conducted by or in a long-term care	140
facility, a competency evaluation program conducted by the	141
director;	142
(ii) If the individual is enrolled in a prelicensure	143
program of nursing education described in division (B)(6) of	144
this section and has completed or is working toward completion	145
of the courses described in that division, or the individual has	146
the experience described in division (B)(7) of this section, a	147
competency evaluation program conducted by the director;	148
(iii) A training and competency evaluation program	149
approved by the director under division (A) of section 3721.31	150
of the Revised Code or conducted by the director under division	151
(C) of that section.	152
(b) If the individual participates in or has successfully	153
completed a training and competency evaluation program under	154
division (D)(2)(a)(iii) of this section that is conducted by or	155
in a long-term care facility, participate in a competency	156
evaluation program conducted by the director.	157
(3) During the four-month period provided for in division	158
(C) of this section, during which a long-term care facility may,	159
subject to division (E) of this section, use as a nurse aide an	160
individual who does not have the qualifications specified in	161
divisions (C)(1) and (2) of this section, a facility shall	162
require the individual to comply with divisions (D)(3)(a) and	163
(b) of this section:	164
(a) Participate in one of the following:	165
(i) If the individual has successfully completed a	166

training and competency evaluation program approved by the	167
director, and the program was conducted by or in a long-term	168
care facility, a competency evaluation program conducted by the	169
director;	170
(ii) If the individual is enrolled in a prelicensure	171
program of nursing education described in division (B)(6) of	172
this section and has completed or is working toward completion	173
of the courses described in that division, or the individual has	174
the experience described in division (B)(7) of this section, a	175
competency evaluation program conducted by the director;	176
(iii) A training and competency evaluation program	177
approved or conducted by the director.	178
(b) If the individual participates in or has successfully	179
completed a training and competency evaluation program under	180
division (D)(3)(a)(iii) of this section that is conducted by or	181
in a long-term care facility, participate in a competency	182
evaluation program conducted by the director.	183
(E) A long-term care facility shall not permit an	184
individual used by the facility as a nurse aide while	185
participating in a training and competency evaluation program to	186
provide nursing and nursing-related services unless both of the	187
following are the case:	188
(1) The individual has completed the number of hours of	189
training that must be completed prior to providing services to	190
residents as prescribed by rules that shall be adopted by the	191
director in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code;	192
(2) The individual is under the personal supervision of a	193
registered or licensed practical nurse licensed under Chapter	194
4723. of the Revised Code.	195

(F) An individual shall be considered to have satisfied	196
the requirement, under division (B)(2) of this section, of	197
having successfully completed a training and competency	198
evaluation program conducted or approved by the director, if	199
either of the following apply:	200
(1) The individual, as of July 1, 1989, met both of the	201
following conditions:	202
(a) Completed at least sixty hours divided between skills	203
training and classroom instruction in the topic areas described	204
in $\frac{\text{divisions}}{\text{division}}$ (B) (1) $\frac{\text{to}}{\text{to}}$ of section 3721.30 of the	205
Revised Code;	206
(b) Received at least the difference between seventy-five	207
hours and the number of hours actually spent in training and	208
competency evaluation in supervised practical nurse aide	209
training or regular in-service nurse aide education.	210
(2) The individual meets both of the following conditions:	211
(a) Has completed during the COVID-19 public health	212
emergency declared by the United States secretary of health and	213
human services a minimum of seventy-five hours of training that	214
occurs in a long-term care facility setting, includes on-site	215
observation and work as a nurse aide under a COVID-19 pandemic	216
waiver issued by the federal centers for medicare and medicaid	217
services, and addresses all of the required areas specified in	218
42 C.F.R. 483.152(b), except that if gaps in on-site training	219
are identified, the individual also must complete supplemental	220
training;	221
(b) Has successfully completed the competency evaluation	222
conducted by the director of health under section 3721.31 of the	223
Revised Code.	2.2.4

(G) The director shall adopt rules in accordance with	225
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code specifying persons, in addition	226
to the director, who may establish competence of nurse aides	227
under division (B)(5) of this section, and establishing criteria	228
for determining whether an individual meets the conditions	229
specified in division (F)(1) of this section.	230
(H) The rules adopted pursuant to divisions (E)(1) and (G)	231
of this section shall be no less stringent than the	232
requirements, guidelines, and procedures established by the	233
United States secretary of health and human services under	234
sections 1819 and 1919 of the "Social Security Act."	235
Sec. 3721.29. In addition to competency evaluation	236
programs and training and competency evaluation programs	237
required by this chapter, each long-term care facility shall	238
provide both of the following to each nurse aide it uses:	239
(A) An orientation program that includes at least an	240
explanation of the organizational structure of the facility, its	241
policies and procedures, its philosophy of care, a description	242
of its resident population, and an enumeration of its employee	243
rules;	244
(B) Regular performance review and in-service education to	245
assure that individuals working in the facility as nurse aides	246
are competent to perform the nursing and nursing-related	247
services they perform. In-service education shall include	248
training for nurse aides providing nursing and nursing-related	249
services to residents and patients with cognitive impairments,	250
including two hours annually of dementia-specific training that	251
meets the requirements for training and competency evaluation	252
programs under division (B)(2) of section 3721.30 of the Revised	253
Code.	254

The director of health shall adopt rules to implement the	255
purposes of this section. The rules shall be no less stringent	256
than the requirements, guidelines, and procedures established by	257
the United States secretary of health and human services under	258
sections 1819 and 1919 of the "Social Security Act," 49 Stat.	259
620 (1935), 42 U.S.C.A. 301, as amended.	260
Sec. 3721.30. (A)(1) A training and competency evaluation	261
program approved by the director of health under division (A) of	262
section 3721.31 of the Revised Code or a competency evaluation	263
program conducted by the director under division (C) of that	264
section shall evaluate the competency of a nurse aide in the	265
following areas:	266
(a) Basic nursing skills;	267
(a) basic narsing skills,	207
(b) Personal care skills;	268
(c) Recognition of mental health and social service needs;	269
(d) Care of residents with cognitive impairments;	270
(e) Basic restorative services;	271
<pre>(f) Residents' rights;</pre>	272
(g) Any other area specified by rule of the director.	273
(2) Any training and competency evaluation program	274
approved or competency evaluation program conducted by the	275
director may include a written examination, but shall permit a	276
nurse aide, at the nurse aide's option, to establish competency	277
in another manner approved by the director. A nurse aide shall	278
be permitted to have the competency evaluation conducted at the	279
long-term care facility at which the nurse aide is or will be	280
employed, unless the facility has been determined by the	281
director or the United States secretary of health and human	282

services to have been out of compliance with the requirements of	283
subsection (b), (c), or (d) of section 1819 or 1919 of the	284
"Social Security Act," 49 Stat. 620 (1935), 42 U.S.C.A. 301, as	285
amended, within the previous two years.	286
(B) A training and competency evaluation program approved	287
or conducted by the director under section 3721.31 of the	288
Revised Code shall consist of training and competency evaluation	289
specified by the director in rules adopted under division $\frac{(C)}{(G)}$	290
of this section, including—a—:	291
(1) A minimum of seventy-five hours divided between skills	292
training and classroom instruction in the following topic areas:	293
(1)(a) Basic nursing skills;	294
(2) (b) Personal care skills;	295
(3)(c) Recognition of mental health and social service	296
needs;	
(4) (d) Care of residents with cognitive impairments;	298
(5)(e) Basic restorative services;	299
(6)(f) Residents' rights;	300
(7)(g) Needs of various groups of long-term care facility	301
residents and patients;	302
(8) (h) Other topic areas specified by rule of the	303
director.	304
(2) Beginning not later than one hundred eighty days after	305
the effective date of this amendment, a minimum of two hours of	306
dementia-specific training on the following topics:	307
(a) An overview of dementia, including its different	308
types;	309

(b) Communication techniques for interacting with	310
individuals with dementia;	311
(b) Behavioral symptoms of individuals with dementia and	312
management of those symptoms;	313
(c) Person-centered care practices;	314
(d) Promoting dignity, independence, and quality of life	315
<pre>for individuals with dementia;</pre>	316
(e) Nursing home resident rights established under section	317
3721.13 of the Revised Code.	318
(C) The department of health shall approve dementia-	319
specific training programs that meet the requirements described	320
in division (B)(2) of this section, including any of the	321
following:	322
(1) Accredited in-person or online courses;	323
(2) Programs developed or endorsed by recognized dementia	324
care organizations, including the essentiALZ program offered by	325
<pre>the Alzheimer's association;</pre>	326
(3) State provided or licensed training modules;	327
(4) Programs developed by a nursing home or residential	328
<pre>care facility.</pre>	329
(D) Each nursing home and residential care facility shall	330
maintain records of compliance under division (B)(2) of this	331
section for each nurse aid employed by the home or facility.	332
(E) No nurse aide shall provide direct care to residents	333
with dementia until the nurse aide has completed the training	334
required under division (B)(2) of this section.	335
(F) If the director of health determines that a nursing	336

home or residential care facility has violated or failed to	337
comply with the dementia-specific training requirements under	338
division (B)(2) of this section, the director may do any of the	339
<pre>following:</pre>	340
(1) Impose a fine in an amount determined by the director;	341
(2) Request a licensee to submit an acceptable plan of	342
correction to the director;	343
(3) In accordance with section 3721.07 of the Revised	344
Coke, revoke a license to operate.	345
(G) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code,	346
the director shall adopt rules establishing procedures and	347
criteria for approval of training and competency evaluation	348
programs. The requirements established by rules shall be no less	349
stringent than the requirements, guidelines, and procedures	350
established by the United States secretary of health and human	351
services under sections 1819 and 1919 of the "Social Security	352
Act." The director also shall adopt rules governing all of the	353
following:	354
(1) Procedures for determination of an individual's	355
competency to perform services as a nurse aide;	356
(2) The curriculum of training and competency evaluation	357
programs;	358
(3) The clinical supervision and physical facilities used	359
for training and competency evaluation programs;	360
(4) The number of hours of training required in training	361
and competency evaluation programs;	362
(5) The qualifications for instructors, coordinators, and	363
evaluators of training and competency evaluation programs,	364

except that the rules shall not require an instructor for a	365
training and competency evaluation program to have nursing home	366
experience if the program is under the general supervision of a	367
coordinator who is a registered nurse who possesses a minimum of	368
two years of nursing experience, at least one of which is in the	369
provision of services in a nursing home or intermediate care	370
facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities;	371
(6) Requirements that training and competency evaluation	372
programs must meet to retain approval;	373
(7) Standards for successful completion of a training and	374
competency evaluation program;	375
(8) Procedures and criteria for review and reapproval of	376
training and competency evaluation programs;	377
(9) Fees for application for approval or reapproval of	378
training and competency evaluation programs and programs to	379
train instructors, coordinators, and evaluators for training and	380
competency evaluation programs;	381
(10) Fees for participation in any training and competency	382
evaluation program or other program conducted by the director	383
under section 3721.31 of the Revised Code;	384
(11) Procedures for reporting to the nurse aide registry	385
established under section 3721.32 of the Revised Code whether or	386
not individuals participating in training and competency	387
evaluation programs have successfully completed the programs.	388
(D)(H) In accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised	389
Code, the director may adopt rules prescribing criteria and	390
procedures for approval of training programs for instructors,	391
coordinators, and evaluators for competency evaluation programs	392
and training and competency evaluation programs. The director	393

may adopt other rules that the director considers necessary for	394
the administration and enforcement of sections 3721.28 to	395
3721.34 of the Revised Code or for compliance with requirements,	396
guidelines, or procedures issued by the United States secretary	397
of health and human services for implementation of section 1819	398
or 1919 of the "Social Security Act."	399
$\frac{(E)}{(I)}$ No person or government entity shall impose on a	400
nurse aide any charge for participation in any competency	401
evaluation program or training and competency evaluation program	402
approved or conducted by the director under section 3721.31 of	403
the Revised Code, including any charge for textbooks, other	404
required course materials, or a competency evaluation.	405
$\frac{(F)}{(J)}$ No person or government entity shall require that	406
an individual used by the person or government entity as a nurse	407
aide or seeking employment as a nurse aide pay or repay, either	408
before or while the individual is employed by the person or	409
government entity or when the individual leaves the person or	410
government entity's employ, any costs associated with the	411
individual's participation in a competency evaluation program or	412
training and competency evaluation program approved or conducted	413
by the director.	414
(K) As used in this section, "dementia" has the same	415
meaning as in section 5163.03 of the Revised Code.	416
Section 2. That existing sections 3721.28, 3721.29, and	417
3721.30 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	418
Section 3. This act shall be known as the Ohio Dementia	419
Care Training Act for Nurse Aides.	420