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H.B. 23
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Plummer and West

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SUMMARY

- Requires peace officers and specified emergency medical service personnel to undergo training in identifying and interacting with individuals with dementia.
- Requires the Attorney General and the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to adopt rules governing dementia training for peace officers and emergency medical service personnel.
- Requires the Attorney General and the Board to consult with the Departments of Aging and Job and Family Services.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Dementia training

The bill establishes training requirements for peace officers and emergency medical service personnel in identifying and interacting with individuals with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.¹ The peace officers subject to the bill include members of police departments and various other types of law enforcement personnel.² The emergency medical service personnel subject to the bill include all of the following: (1) first responders, (2) emergency medical technicians-basic, (3) emergency medical technicians-intermediate, and (4) emergency medical technicians-paramedic.

Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to adopt rules establishing the number of hours of dementia training that are necessary for completion of basic training programs offered at approved peace officer training schools. Rules also must be adopted establishing the

¹ R.C. 109.7410, 4765.16, and 4765.162.

² R.C. 109.71, not in the bill.

number of hours of dementia training that may be credited for continued professional training. At a minimum, the initial training must include two hours of instruction in dementia-related topics and continuing professional training must include one hour of instruction in those topics.³

The State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services is required to adopt rules establishing the number of hours of dementia training that must be completed by emergency medical service personnel. The training is to be included as a course within each emergency medical services training program and continuing education program. Similar to the training for peace officers, the initial course must include at least two hours of instruction in dementia-related topics and each continuing education course must include at least one hour of instruction in those topics.⁴

Training topics

The dementia training required for peace officers and emergency medical service personnel must include instruction in all of the following topics:

- Identifying individuals with dementia, including psychiatric and behavioral symptoms of dementia;
- Respectful and effective communication techniques for communicating with individuals with dementia and their caregivers;
- Techniques for addressing the behavioral symptoms of dementia, including alternatives to physical restraint in the case of peace officers;
- Identifying and reporting incidents of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals with dementia to the appropriate county department of job and family services in accordance with existing law;⁵
- Protocols for contacting caregivers when an individual with dementia is found wandering or during an emergency or crisis situation;
- Local resources available for individuals with dementia;
- Local and national organizations that assist peace officers and emergency medical service personnel with locating missing and wandering individuals with dementia and returning them to their caregivers.⁶

³ R.C. 109.7410(B).

⁴ R.C. 4765.16 and 4765.162(B) and (C).

⁵ R.C. 5101.63, not in the bill.

⁶ R.C. 109.7410(C) and 4765.162(C).

Consultation with Departments of Aging and Job and Family Services

The bill requires the Attorney General, in adopting rules for dementia-related training, to consult with the Departments of Aging and Job and Family Services. Similarly, the Board is required, in developing a dementia-related education and training course for emergency medical service personnel, to consult with both departments.⁷

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-03-21
Reported, H. Commerce & Labor	03-23-21
Passed House (90-2)	04-15-21

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⁷ R.C. 109.7410(B) and 4765.162(B).