

State Long-term Care Ombudsman Dementia Care Training; SB 88

SB 88 amends the Long-term Care Ombudsman Act to require the State Long-term Care Ombudsman (LTC Ombudsman) to include Alzheimer's and other dementia (collectively referred to as "dementia") training in prescribed and provided training, as specified in the bill. The bill requires the training to address the needs and rights of long-term care residents with dementia, include strategies to care for and address the specific issues encountered by such residents, and include a list of specific topics to be addressed in such training.

LTC Ombudsmen Training Requirement

The bill requires the LTC Ombudsman to include in the prescribed and provided training specific dementia care training. [Note: Continuing law requires the LTC Ombudsman to prescribe and provide training to regional long-term care ombudsmen, any employee of the Office of the LTC Ombudsman (Office) who has successfully completed ombudsman training and who represents the Office as a designated ombudsman, and any volunteer ombudsman (collectively referred to as "ombudsmen").

Training Topics

The bill requires the training provided to ombudsmen pertaining to the needs and rights of long-term care residents with dementia and the strategies to care for and address issues experienced by such residents include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- Understanding the warning signs and symptoms of dementia;
- Knowledge of person-centered dementia care;
- Effectively communicating with individuals living with dementia;
- Recognizing behavioral symptoms, including alternatives to physical and chemical restraints for residents;
- Addressing specific threats to residents' safety, such as wandering;
- Referring residents' care partners and families to accurate and up-to-date sources of information, support, and resources regarding dementia; and
- Protocols for connecting individuals living with dementia to local care resources and professionals skilled in dementia care to encourage cross-referral and reporting regarding incidents of abuse.