

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 22-0213.01 Christy Chase x2008

**SENATE BILL 22-079**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Kolker and Ginal,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Young and Froelich,**

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**Senate Committees**  
Health & Human Services

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING REQUIRED DEMENTIA TRAINING FOR DIRECT-CARE STAFF**  
102 **OF SPECIFIED FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO CLIENTS**  
103 **LIVING WITH DEMENTIA.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires the department of public health and environment, with regard to nursing care facilities and assisted living residences, and the medical services board in the department of health care policy and financing, with regard to adult day care facilities, to adopt rules requiring these facilities to provide dementia training for staff providing direct-care

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 23, 2022

services to clients and residents of the facilities.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds that:

4 (a) In 2022, an estimated seventy-six thousand Coloradans are  
5 living with Alzheimer's disease, and that number is predicted to rise by  
6 more than twenty-one percent by 2025;

7 (b) As dementia progresses, individuals living with the disease  
8 increasingly rely on direct-care staff to help them with activities of daily  
9 living, such as bathing, dressing, and eating, among others, and are  
10 dependent on staff for their health, safety, and welfare;

11 (c) Direct-care staff in particular settings are more likely to  
12 encounter people with dementia, as evidenced by the following data:

13 (I) Forty-eight percent of nursing facility residents have dementia;

14 (II) Forty-two percent of residents in residential care facilities,  
15 including assisted living residences, have dementia; and

16 (III) Thirty-one percent of individuals using adult day care  
17 services have dementia;

18 (d) During the COVID-19 pandemic, when families were  
19 restricted from visiting their loved ones with dementia who live in  
20 nursing or other residential facilities, the critical need for direct-care staff  
21 to be adequately trained in dementia care was highlighted;

22 (e) Training has the dual benefit of supporting direct-care staff  
23 and increasing the quality of care provided to residents or program  
24 participants to whom they provide care;

25 (f) Staff turnover presents a major challenge to direct-care

1 employers across the country, especially given that recruitment and  
2 training is often costly and time consuming;

3 (g) Dementia training can more adequately prepare direct-care  
4 staff for the responsibilities of these jobs, potentially reducing stress, staff  
5 burnout, and turnover; and

6 (h) The single most important determinant of quality dementia  
7 care across all care settings is direct-care staff.

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25-1.5-118 as  
9 follows:

10 **25-1.5-118. Training for staff providing direct-care services to**  
11 **residents with dementia - rules - definitions.** (1) BY JANUARY 1, 2024,  
12 THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH SHALL ADOPT RULES REQUIRING COVERED  
13 FACILITIES TO PROVIDE DEMENTIA TRAINING FOR DIRECT-CARE STAFF  
14 MEMBERS. THE RULES MUST SPECIFY THE FOLLOWING, AT A MINIMUM:

15 (a) THE DATE ON WHICH THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT  
16 IS EFFECTIVE;

17 (b) THE LENGTH AND FREQUENCY OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING,  
18 WHICH MUST BE COMPETENCY-BASED AND MUST REQUIRE A COVERED  
19 FACILITY TO PROVIDE:

20 (I) AT LEAST FOUR HOURS OF INITIAL DEMENTIA TRAINING FOR:

21 (A) ALL DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBERS HIRED BY OR WHO START  
22 PROVIDING DIRECT-CARE SERVICES AT A COVERED FACILITY ON OR AFTER  
23 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED  
24 IN THE RULES, UNLESS AN EXCEPTION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO  
25 SUBSECTION (1)(e) OF THIS SECTION APPLIES, WHICH TRAINING MUST BE  
26 COMPLETED WITHIN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE START OF  
27 EMPLOYMENT OR THE PROVISION OF DIRECT-CARE SERVICES, AS

1 APPLICABLE; AND

2 (B) ALL DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBERS HIRED BY OR PROVIDING  
3 DIRECT-CARE SERVICES AT A COVERED FACILITY BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE  
4 DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN THE RULES,  
5 UNLESS AN EXCEPTION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(e) OF  
6 THIS SECTION APPLIES, WHICH TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE  
7 HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA  
8 TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN THE RULES; AND

9 (II) AT LEAST TWO HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION ON  
10 DEMENTIA TOPICS FOR ALL DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBERS EVERY TWO  
11 YEARS. THE CONTINUING EDUCATION MUST INCLUDE CURRENT  
12 INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES IN THE TREATMENT AND CARE OF  
13 PERSONS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA DISEASES AND RELATED DISABILITIES.

14 (c) THE CONTENT OF THE INITIAL DEMENTIA TRAINING, WHICH  
15 MUST BE CULTURALLY COMPETENT AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

16 (I) DEMENTIA DISEASES AND RELATED DISABILITIES;

17 (II) PERSON-CENTERED CARE;

18 (III) CARE PLANNING;

19 (IV) ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING; AND

20 (V) DEMENTIA-RELATED BEHAVIORS AND COMMUNICATION;

21 (d) THE METHOD OF DEMONSTRATING COMPLETION OF THE  
22 REQUIRED DEMENTIA TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION AND OF  
23 EXEMPTING A DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER FROM THE REQUIRED  
24 DEMENTIA TRAINING IF THE DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER MOVES TO A  
25 DIFFERENT COVERED FACILITY THAN THE COVERED FACILITY THROUGH  
26 WHICH THE DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER RECEIVED THE TRAINING. FOR  
27 PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (1)(d), "COVERED FACILITY" INCLUDES AN

1 ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25.5-6-303 (1).

2 (e) AN EXCEPTION TO THE INITIAL DEMENTIA TRAINING  
3 REQUIREMENTS FOR:

4 (I) A DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER HIRED BY OR WHO STARTS  
5 PROVIDING DIRECT-CARE SERVICES AT A COVERED FACILITY ON OR AFTER  
6 THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED  
7 IN THE RULES WHO HAS:

8 (A) COMPLETED AN EQUIVALENT DEMENTIA TRAINING PROGRAM  
9 WITHIN THE TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE  
10 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN  
11 THE RULES; AND

12 (B) PROVIDED PROOF OF SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE  
13 TRAINING PROGRAM; AND

14 (II) A DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER HIRED BY OR PROVIDING  
15 DIRECT-CARE SERVICES AT A COVERED FACILITY BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE  
16 DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN THE RULES  
17 WHO HAS:

18 (A) RECEIVED EQUIVALENT TRAINING, AS DEFINED IN THE RULES,  
19 WITHIN THE TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE  
20 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN  
21 THE RULES; AND

22 (B) PROVIDED PROOF OF SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE  
23 TRAINING PROGRAM;

24 (f) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS CONDUCTING THE  
25 DEMENTIA TRAINING;

26 (g) A PROCESS FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO VERIFY COMPLIANCE  
27 WITH THIS SECTION AND THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD OF

1 HEALTH PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION;

2 (h) A REQUIREMENT THAT COVERED FACILITIES PROVIDE THE  
3 DEMENTIA TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO  
4 DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBERS AT NO COST TO THE STAFF MEMBERS; AND

5 (i) ANY OTHER MATTERS THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH DEEMS  
6 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

7 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ENCOURAGE COVERED FACILITIES  
8 AND DEMENTIA TRAINING PROVIDERS TO EXPLORE AND APPLY FOR  
9 AVAILABLE GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS FROM STATE AND FEDERAL  
10 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND  
11 IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMENTIA TRAINING PROGRAMS.

12 (3) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

13 (a) "COVERED FACILITY" MEANS A NURSING CARE FACILITY OR AN  
14 ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO  
15 SECTION 25-1.5-103 (1)(a).

16 (b) "DEMENTIA DISEASES AND RELATED DISABILITIES" HAS THE  
17 SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 25-1-502 (2.5).

18 (c) "DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER" MEANS A STAFF MEMBER  
19 CARING FOR THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF  
20 RESIDENTS IN A COVERED FACILITY AND WHOSE WORK INVOLVES REGULAR  
21 CONTACT WITH RESIDENTS WHO ARE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA DISEASES  
22 AND RELATED DISABILITIES.

23 (d) "STAFF MEMBER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL, OTHER THAN A  
24 VOLUNTEER, WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A COVERED FACILITY.

25 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 25.5-6-314 as  
26 follows:

27 **25.5-6-314. Training for staff providing direct-care services to**

1 **clients with dementia - rules - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS  
2 SECTION:

3 (a) "COVERED FACILITY" MEANS A NURSING CARE FACILITY OR AN  
4 ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
5 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-1.5-103 (1)(a).

6 (b) "DEMENTIA DISEASES AND RELATED DISABILITIES" HAS THE  
7 SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 25-1-502 (2.5).

8 (c) "DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER" MEANS A STAFF MEMBER  
9 CARING FOR THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF  
10 CLIENTS OF AN ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY AND WHOSE WORK INVOLVES  
11 REGULAR CONTACT WITH CLIENTS WHO ARE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA  
12 DISEASES AND RELATED DISABILITIES.

13 (d) "STAFF MEMBER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL, OTHER THAN A  
14 VOLUNTEER, WHO IS EMPLOYED BY AN ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY.

15 (2) BY JULY 1, 2024, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT RULES  
16 REQUIRING ALL DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBERS TO OBTAIN DEMENTIA  
17 TRAINING PURSUANT TO CURRICULUM PRESCRIBED OR APPROVED BY THE  
18 STATE DEPARTMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS THAT IS  
19 CONSISTENT WITH THE RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION  
20 (2). THE RULES MUST SPECIFY THE FOLLOWING, AT A MINIMUM:

21 (a) THE DATE ON WHICH THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT  
22 IS EFFECTIVE;

23 (b) THE LENGTH AND FREQUENCY OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING,  
24 WHICH MUST BE COMPETENCY-BASED AND MUST REQUIRE ALL  
25 DIRECT-CARE STAFF TO OBTAIN:

26 (I) AT LEAST FOUR HOURS OF INITIAL DEMENTIA TRAINING, WHICH  
27 MUST BE COMPLETED AS FOLLOWS:

1 (A) FOR ALL DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBERS HIRED BY OR WHO  
2 START PROVIDING DIRECT-CARE SERVICES AT AN ADULT DAY CARE  
3 FACILITY ON OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING  
4 REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN THE RULES, UNLESS AN EXCEPTION  
5 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(e) OF THIS SECTION APPLIES,  
6 THE TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS  
7 AFTER THE START OF EMPLOYMENT OR THE PROVISION OF DIRECT-CARE  
8 SERVICES, AS APPLICABLE; AND

9 (B) FOR ALL DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBERS HIRED BY OR  
10 PROVIDING DIRECT-CARE SERVICES AT AN ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY  
11 BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT  
12 SPECIFIED IN THE RULES, UNLESS AN EXCEPTION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT  
13 TO SUBSECTION (2)(e) OF THIS SECTION APPLIES, THE TRAINING MUST BE  
14 COMPLETED WITHIN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
15 DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN THE RULES;  
16 AND

17 (II) AT LEAST TWO HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION ON  
18 DEMENTIA TOPICS \_\_\_ EVERY TWO YEARS. THE CONTINUING EDUCATION  
19 MUST INCLUDE CURRENT INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES IN THE  
20 TREATMENT AND CARE OF PERSONS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA DISEASES AND  
21 RELATED DISABILITIES.

22 (c) THE CONTENT OF THE INITIAL DEMENTIA TRAINING, WHICH  
23 MUST BE CULTURALLY COMPETENT AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- 24 (I) DEMENTIA DISEASES AND RELATED DISABILITIES;
- 25 (II) PERSON-CENTERED CARE;
- 26 (III) CARE PLANNING;
- 27 (IV) ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING; AND



1 (V) DEMENTIA-RELATED BEHAVIORS AND COMMUNICATION;

2 (d) THE METHOD OF DEMONSTRATING COMPLETION OF THE  
3 REQUIRED DEMENTIA TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION AND OF  
4 EXEMPTING A DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER FROM THE REQUIRED  
5 DEMENTIA TRAINING IF THE DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER MOVES TO A  
6 DIFFERENT ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY THAN THE ADULT DAY CARE  
7 FACILITY THROUGH WHICH THE DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER RECEIVED  
8 THE TRAINING OR MOVES TO A COVERED FACILITY AFTER RECEIVING THE  
9 TRAINING THROUGH AN ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY;

10 (e) AN EXCEPTION TO THE INITIAL DEMENTIA TRAINING  
11 REQUIREMENTS FOR:

12 (I) A DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER HIRED BY OR WHO STARTS  
13 PROVIDING DIRECT-CARE SERVICES AT AN ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY ON  
14 OR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT  
15 SPECIFIED IN THE RULES WHO HAS:

16 (A) COMPLETED AN EQUIVALENT DEMENTIA TRAINING PROGRAM  
17 WITHIN THE TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE  
18 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN  
19 THE RULES; AND

20 (B) PROVIDED PROOF OF SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE  
21 TRAINING PROGRAM; AND

22 (II) A DIRECT-CARE STAFF MEMBER HIRED BY OR PROVIDING  
23 DIRECT-CARE SERVICES AT AN ADULT DAY CARE FACILITY BEFORE THE  
24 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN  
25 THE RULES WHO HAS:

26 (A) RECEIVED EQUIVALENT TRAINING, AS DEFINED IN THE RULES,  
27 WITHIN THE TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE

1 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DEMENTIA TRAINING REQUIREMENT SPECIFIED IN  
2 THE RULES; AND

3 (B) PROVIDED PROOF OF SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE  
4 TRAINING PROGRAM;

5 (f) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS CONDUCTING THE  
6 DEMENTIA TRAINING;

7 (g) A PROCESS FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO VERIFY  
8 COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION AND THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE STATE  
9 BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION; AND

10 ==

11 (h) ANY OTHER MATTERS THE STATE BOARD DEEMS NECESSARY TO  
12 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

13 ==

14 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
15 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
16 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
17 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
18 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
19 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
20 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
21 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
22 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.