

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 302 entitled “An act relating to public health outreach programs regarding
4 dementia risk” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 6221 is amended to read:

8 § 6221. PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES

9 (a) The Departments of Health and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent
10 Living shall jointly develop and maintain easily accessible electronic, print,
11 and in-person public education materials and programs on Alzheimer’s disease
12 and related disorders that shall serve as a resource for patients, families,
13 caregivers, and health care providers. The Departments shall include
14 information about the State Plan on Aging as well as resources and programs
15 for prevention, care, and support for individuals, families, and communities.

16 (b)(1) The Departments of Health, of Mental Health, and of Disabilities,
17 Aging, and Independent Living, in consultation with the Commission on
18 Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders and other relevant workgroups and
19 community organizations, shall, as part of existing and relevant public health
20 outreach programs:

21 (A) educate health care providers regarding:

1 (i) the value of early detection and timely diagnosis of
2 Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia;

3 (ii) validated assessment tools for the detection and diagnosis of
4 Alzheimer’s disease, younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease, and other types of
5 dementia;

6 (iii) the benefits of a Medicare annual wellness visit or other
7 annual physical for an adult 65 years of age or older to screen for Alzheimer’s
8 disease and other types of dementia;

9 (iv) the significance of recognizing the family care partner as part
10 of the health care team;

11 (v) the Medicare care planning billing code for individuals with
12 Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia; and

13 (vi) the necessity of ensuring that patients have access to language
14 access services, when appropriate; and

15 (B) increase public understanding and awareness of:

16 (i) the early warning signs of Alzheimer’s disease and other types
17 of dementia; and

18 (ii) the benefits of early detection and timely diagnosis of
19 Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia.

20 (2) In their public health outreach programs and any programming and
21 information developed for providers pertaining to Alzheimer’s disease and

1 other types of dementia, the Departments shall provide uniform, consistent
2 guidance in nonclinical terms with an emphasis on cultural competency as
3 defined in 18 V.S.A. § 251 and health literacy, specifically targeting
4 populations at higher risk for developing dementia.

5 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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14 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE