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H.535

Introduced by Representatives Krasnow of South Burlington, Andrews of Westford, Anthony of Barre City, Arsenault of Williston, Berbeco of Winooski, Bluemle of Burlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Burrows of West Windsor, Buss of Woodstock, Carroll of Bennington, Casey of Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Graning of Jericho, Hango of Berkshire, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Hooper of Burlington, Howard of Rutland City, Hyman of South Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, Lalley of Shelburne, Leavitt of Grand Isle, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Minier of South Burlington, Morgan of Milton, Noyes of Wolcott, Nugent of South Burlington, Ode of Burlington, Page of Newport City, Patt of Worcester, Pouech of Hinesburg, Priestley of Bradford, Rachelson of Burlington, Stebbins of Burlington, Stone of Burlington, Torre of Moretown, Waters Evans of Charlotte, and Whitman of Bennington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; public health; dementia; outreach campaigns

1 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to direct various
2 departments to educate health care providers and the public about dementia
3 risks and the benefits of early detection.

4 An act relating to public health outreach programs regarding dementia risk

5 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

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

7 § 6221. PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES

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

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

20 (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; and

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

13 (B) increase public understanding and awareness of:

14 (i) the early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and other types
15 of dementia; and

16 (ii) the benefits of early detection and timely diagnosis of
17 Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

18 (2) In their public health outreach programs pertaining to Alzheimer's
19 disease and other types of dementia, the Departments shall provide uniform,
20 consistent guidance in nonclinical terms with an emphasis on cultural

1 relevancy and health literacy, specifically targeting populations at higher risk
2 for developing dementia.

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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