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S.302

Introduced by Senators Brock, Collamore, Gulick and Hardy

Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

Date: January 30, 2024

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

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

An act relating to public health outreach programs regarding dementia risk

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

~~Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 6221 is amended to read:~~

~~§ 6221. PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES~~

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

1 ~~(b)(1) The Departments of Health, of Mental Health, and of Disabilities,~~
2 Ageing, and Independent Living, in consultation with the Commission on
3 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders and other relevant workgroups and
4 community organizations, shall, as part of existing and relevant public health
5 outreach programs:

6 (A) educate health care providers regarding:

7 (i) the value of early detection and timely diagnosis of
8 Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia;

9 (ii) validated assessment tools for the detection and diagnosis of
10 Alzheimer's disease, younger-onset Alzheimer's disease, and other types of
11 dementia;

12 (iii) the benefits of a Medicare annual wellness visit or other
13 annual physical for an adult 65 years of age or older to screen for Alzheimer's
14 disease and other types of dementia;

15 (iv) the significance of recognizing the family care partner as part
16 of the health care team; and

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

19 (B) increase public understanding and awareness of:

20 (i) the early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and other types
21 of dementia, and

1 ~~(ii) the benefits of early detection and timely diagnosis of~~
2 ~~Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.~~

3 ~~(2) In their public health outreach programs pertaining to Alzheimer's~~
4 ~~disease and other types of dementia, the Departments shall provide uniform,~~
5 ~~consistent guidance in nonclinical terms with an emphasis on cultural~~
6 ~~relevancy and health literacy, specifically targeting populations at higher risk~~
7 ~~for developing dementia.~~

8 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

9 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.~~

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

§ 6221. PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES

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

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

(A) educate health care providers regarding:

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

(ii) validated assessment tools for the detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, younger-onset Alzheimer's disease, and other types of dementia.

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

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

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

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

~~(B) increase public understanding and awareness of:~~

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

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

~~(2) In their public health outreach programs and any programming and information developed for providers pertaining to Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia, the Departments shall provide uniform, consistent guidance in nonclinical terms with an emphasis on cultural competency as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 251 and health literacy, specifically targeting populations at higher risk for developing dementia.~~

~~Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE~~

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

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

~~§ 6221. PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES~~

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

~~(b)(1) To the extent funds exist, the Departments of Health, of Mental Health, and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, in consultation with the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders and other relevant workgroups and community organizations, shall, as part of existing and relevant public health outreach programs:~~

(A) educate health care providers regarding:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) increase public understanding and awareness of:

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

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

(2) In their public health outreach programs and any programming and information developed for providers pertaining to Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia, the Departments shall provide uniform, consistent guidance in nonclinical terms with an emphasis on cultural competency as defined in 18 V.S.A. § 251 and health literacy, specifically targeting populations at higher risk for developing dementia.

Sec. 2. PRESENTATION; ADDRESSING RARE DISEASES

On or after January 15, 2025, the Department of Health shall provide a presentation to the House Committee on Human Services and to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare describing the public health impact of rare diseases in Vermont and the Department's role in addressing rare diseases statewide.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.