

1 S.302

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

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

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

5 § 6221. PUBLIC EDUCATION RESOURCES

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

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

18 (A) educate health care providers regarding:

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

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

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

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

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

11 (vi) the necessity of ensuring that patients have access to language
12 access services, when appropriate; 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 and any programming and
19 information developed for providers pertaining to Alzheimer's disease and
20 other types of dementia, the Departments shall provide uniform, consistent
21 guidance in nonclinical terms with an emphasis on cultural competency as

1 defined in 18 V.S.A. § 251 and health literacy, specifically targeting
2 populations at higher risk for developing dementia.

3 Sec. 2. PRESENTATION; ADDRESSING RARE DISEASES

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

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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