Dementia-Specific Training

This Act requires the state agency responsible for regulating long-term care industries to establish minimum dementia-specific training requirements for employees who are employed by:

- skilled nursing facilities;
- intermediate care facilities;
- residential care facilities (assisted living);
- agencies providing in-home care services;
- adult day care programs;
- independent contractors providing direct care to people with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias;
- hospice programs; and
- the state division of aging.

Submitted as:
Missouri
SB 449

Suggested State Legislation

>Title, enacting clause, etc.)

Section 1. [Short Title.] This Act shall be cited as “An Act Requiring Dementia-Specific Training for Employees Who Care for People with Alzheimer’s and Dementia-Related Diseases.”

Section 2. [Alzheimer’s Awareness Day.] The [governor] shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the [first Tuesday in March] as “Alzheimer’s Awareness Day,” and recommending to the people of the state that the day be appropriately observed through activities which will increase awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

Section 3. [Information and Technical Assistance about Alzheimer’s and Related Dementia Diseases and Programs.] The [state division of aging] shall maintain and provide up-to-date information and technical assistance related to the needs and interests of elderly people and people with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias, including information on the [state care options program], dementia-specific training materials and dementia-specific trainers. Such dementia-specific information and technical assistance shall be maintained and provided in consultation with agencies, organizations and/or institutions of higher learning with expertise in dementia care.

Section 4. [Dementia-Specific Training for Employees Who Care for People with Alzheimer’s and Dementia-Related Diseases.] (A) The [state division of aging] shall, by [insert date], establish minimum dementia-specific training requirements for employees involved in the delivery of care to people with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias who are employed by skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, residential care facilities, agencies providing in-home care services, adult daycare programs, independent contractors providing direct care to people with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias, hospice programs and the [division of aging]. Such training shall be
incorporated into new employee orientation and on-going in-service curricula for all employees involved in the care of people with dementia, including, at a minimum, the following:

(1) For employees providing direct care to people with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias, the training shall include an overview of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, communicating with people with dementia, behavior management, promoting independence in activities of daily living, and understanding and dealing with family issues;

(2) For other employees who do not provide direct care for, but may have contact with, people with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias, the training shall include an overview of dementias and communicating with people with dementia.

(B) As used in this section, the term “employee” includes people hired as independent contractors. The training requirements of this section shall not be construed as superseding any other laws or rules regarding dementia-specific training.