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S.206

Introduced by Senators Brock, Hardy, Ingalls and Parent

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; cognitive impairments; Alzheimer's disease; State  
plan; continuing education; training

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) require  
the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders to produce an  
assessment and State plan to overcome Alzheimer's Disease; (2) create a work  
group to study and make recommendations pertaining to continuing education  
requirements on the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with cognitive  
impairments, including Alzheimer's disease and dementia; (3) allow physician  
disclosure of diagnosis and treatment plans with patient's family with patient's  
consent; and (4) require hospitals to adopt an operational plan for the  
recognition and management of patients with dementia or delirium in acute  
care settings.

An act relating to planning for the care and treatment of patients with  
cognitive impairments

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

2 \* \* \* Assessment and State Plan \* \* \*

3 Sec. 1. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE; ASSESSMENT AND STATE PLAN

4 (a) The Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders,  
5 established pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 3085b, shall develop and carry out an  
6 assessment of all State programs that address Alzheimer's disease. The  
7 Commission shall create and maintain an integrated State plan to overcome  
8 Alzheimer's disease, which shall include implementation steps and  
9 recommendations for priority actions based on the assessment. The purposes  
10 of the State plan shall include:

11 (1) accelerating the development of treatments that would prevent, halt,  
12 or reverse the course of Alzheimer's disease;

13 (2) helping coordinate the health care and treatment of individuals with  
14 Alzheimer's disease;

15 (3) ensuring the inclusion of ethnic and racial populations who have a  
16 higher risk for Alzheimer's disease or are least likely to receive care in clinical,  
17 research, and service settings, with the purpose of decreasing health disparities  
18 in Alzheimer's disease;

19 (4) coordinating with federal government entities to integrate and inform  
20 the fight against Alzheimer's disease;

1           (5) providing information and coordination of Alzheimer’s disease  
2           research and services across all State agencies; and

3           (6) implementing a strategy to increase the diagnostic rate of  
4           Alzheimer’s disease in the State.

5           (b) On or before January 1, 2024, the Commission shall submit its  
6           assessment and State plan to the Governor, the House Committees on Health  
7           Care and on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and  
8           Welfare.

9                                   \* \* \* Continuing Education Assessment \* \* \*

10           Sec. 2. CONTINUING EDUCATION ASSESSMENT; REPORT

11           (a) The Chair of the Commission on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related  
12           Disorders shall appoint three members of the Commission to serve as a work  
13           group for the purpose of making recommendations on continuing education  
14           requirements related to the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with  
15           cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. The work  
16           group shall consider continuing education requirements for physicians,  
17           physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses,  
18           licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants and appropriate training for  
19           adult protective services caseworkers. In developing its recommendations, the  
20           work group shall consult with the Vermont Medical Society, Vermont

1 Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, and other professional groups  
2 relevant to the professions specified in this subsection.

3 (b)(1) The work group shall submit its findings and recommendations to  
4 the full Commission on or before November 1, 2022.

5 (2) Upon approval of the full Commission, the work group's findings  
6 and recommendations shall be submitted to the Senate Committee on Health  
7 and Welfare and to the House Committees on Health Care and on Human  
8 Services on or before December 1, 2022.

9 \* \* \* Care of Patients with Cognitive Impairments \* \* \*

10 Sec. 3. 18 V.S.A. chapter 214 is added to read:

11 CHAPTER 214. CARE OF PATIENTS WITH COGNITIVE  
12 IMPAIRMENTS

13 § 9201. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE; DISCLOSURE OF DIAGNOSIS;  
14 TREATMENT OPTIONS

15 To the extent permitted under federal law, a physician licensed pursuant to  
16 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33, upon express or implied consent of a patient  
17 diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, shall report the Alzheimer's diagnosis to  
18 a family member of the patient or agent as defined in section 9701 of this title  
19 and provide the family member or agent information about care planning  
20 services, including assistance understanding the diagnosis; medical and

1 nonmedical options for treatment, services, and supports; and information  
2 regarding how to obtain treatment, services, and supports.

3 § 9202. HOSPITAL OPERATION PLAN

4 A hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 43 of this title shall implement an  
5 operational plan for the recognition and management of patients with dementia  
6 or delirium in acute care settings. The operational plan shall consider  
7 applicable recommendations made by the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease  
8 and Related Disorders, established pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 3085b. Each  
9 hospital's operational plan shall be completed on or before January 1, 2022 and  
10 shall remain on file at the hospital and made available to the Department of  
11 Health upon request.

12 \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

13 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

14 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.