

HCS HB 2481 -- DEMENTIA TRAINING

SPONSOR: Morris (140)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Aging by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2481.

Currently, the Department of Health and Senior Services is required to maintain minimum training requirements for persons involved in the delivery of care to persons with dementia. This bill requires that the department develop those standards in coordination with the Alzheimer's Association.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROponents: Supporters say that this is an important and growing need. Appropriate training will help to address the shortage of employees since it will help people understand the unique behaviors and responses of dementia patients and provide support for difficult situations. Experience has shown and administrators can attest to the fact that good training helps keep staff and patients.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Morris; Amelia Miner Cottle; Alzeheimers Association Greater Missouri Chapter.

OPponents: Those who oppose the bill say that they agree with all the proponents. The problem with the bill is cost. It is simply too expensive and all the cost will be borne by the homes that are already \$28 per patient, per day underfunded. If this bill came with adequate funding, they might support it.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Alliance for Home Care; Missouri Assisted Living Association; Missouri Health Care Association; Lutheran Senior Services; Leading Age Missouri; and the Missouri Association of Nursing Home Administrators.