

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

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BILL: SB 634

INTRODUCER: Senators Gibson and Baxley

SUBJECT: Dementia-related Staff Training

DATE: March 9, 2021

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Looke	Brown	HP	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			CF	
3.			AP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 634 creates s. 430.5025, F.S., to establish the Florida Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Training Act. The bill establishes universal Alzheimer’s disease and related disorder (ADRD) training requirements to be used by nursing homes, home health agencies, hospice providers, assisted living facilities, and adult day care centers to replace each license type’s individual training requirements on that topic.

The bill requires a licensee, as defined in the bill, to provide each of its employees one hour of dementia-related training within 30 days of his or her employment. Additionally, each licensee must require employees who are direct care workers, as defined by the bill, and who are expected to or required to have direct contact with clients, patients, or residents with ADRD to receive at least three hours of initial training within the first three months of employment and four hours of continuing education annually. If the licensee advertises that it provides special care for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, the licensee must require each of its direct care workers to complete four additional hours of training.

The bill allows the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) to develop an evidence-based curriculum and encourages the DOEA to consult with a nationally recognized organization with expertise in the care of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease. The bill requires the DOEA or its designee to approve the courses that may be used to satisfy the training requirements in the bill and to develop an assessment for each required topic. The DOEA is required to adopt rules for implementation.

The bill also amends ss. 400.1755, 400.4785, 400.6045, 429.178, 429.52, and 429.917, F.S., to eliminate individual ADRD training requirements for nursing homes, home health service providers, hospice providers, assisted living facilities (ALF), and adult day care centers in favor of the uniform requirements established by the bill.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

## II. Present Situation:

### Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease

Dementia is the loss of cognitive functioning—thinking, remembering, and reasoning—and behavioral abilities to such an extent that it interferes with a person's daily life and activities. These functions include memory, language skills, visual perception, problem solving, self-management, and the ability to focus and pay attention. Some people with dementia cannot control their emotions, and their personalities may change. Dementia ranges in severity from the mildest stage, when it is just beginning to affect a person's functioning, to the most severe stage, when the person must depend completely on others for basic activities of living.<sup>1</sup>

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia. It is a progressive disease that begins with mild memory loss and can lead to loss of the ability to carry on a conversation and respond to one's environment. Alzheimer's disease affects parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language. It can seriously affect a person's ability to carry out daily activities. Although scientists are studying the disease, what causes Alzheimer's disease is unknown.<sup>2</sup>

There are an estimated 580,000 individuals living with Alzheimer's disease in the state of Florida.<sup>3</sup> By 2025, it is projected that 720,000 Floridians will have Alzheimer's disease.<sup>4</sup> Most individuals with Alzheimer's can live in the community with support, often provided by spouses or other family members. In the late stages of the disease, many patients require care 24 hours per day and are often served in long-term care facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> *What is Dementia? Symptoms, Types, and Diagnosis*, National Institute on Aging, available at <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-dementia-symptoms-types-and-diagnosis>, (last visited on Mar. 2, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging website available at <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/aginginfo/alzheimers.htm#AlzheimersDisease>, (last visited Mar. 2, 2021).

<sup>3</sup> Alzheimer's Association available at <https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/florida-alzheimers-facts-figures-2018.pdf>, (last visited Mar. 2, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

## Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease Training

### *Overview by Facility Type*

	All Employees	Employees with Expected or Required Direct Contact	Employees Providing Direct Care	Health Care Practitioner Continuing Education Sufficient?	Training Approved?	Additional Reqs.
<b>Nursing Homes</b>	Provided with basic written information about interacting with persons with ADRD upon beginning employment.	1 hour of training within the first 3 months of employment.	Additional 3 hours of training within the first 9 months of employment.	Yes	By DOEA.	
<b>Home Health Agencies</b>		Not specified.	2 hours of training within the first 9 months of employment.	Yes	By DOEA.	HHA’s that serve 90% individuals under age 21 are exempt.
<b>Hospice Providers</b>	ADRD upon beginning employment.	1 hour of training within the first 3 months of employment.	Additional 3 hours of training within the first 9 months of employment.	Yes	By DOEA.	
<b>ALFs<sup>5</sup></b>	Employees with incidental contact must be given information within 3 months.	4 hours within 3 months of employment	4 additional hours within 9 months of employment + 4 hours CE annually	Not specified.	By DOEA	
<b>Adult Day Care Centers</b>	Same as nursing homes, home health agencies, and Hospice.	1 hour of training within the first 3 months of employment.	Additional 3 hours of training within the first 9 months of employment.	Yes	By DOEA	

Details for each facility type are below:

### *Nursing Homes*

Section 400.1755, F.S., requires each nursing home to provide the following training:

- Provide each of its employee’s basic written information about interacting with persons with ADRD upon beginning employment.
- All employees who are expected to, or whose responsibilities require them to, have direct contact with residents with ADRD must also have an initial training of at least one hour completed in the first three months after beginning employment. This training must include,

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<sup>5</sup> Training is only required if the ALF advertises that it provides special care for persons with Alzheimer’s disease or related disorders.

but is not limited to, an overview of dementias and must provide basic skills in communicating with persons with dementia.

- An individual who provides direct care must complete the required initial training and an additional three hours of training within nine months after beginning employment. This training must include, but is not limited to, managing problem behaviors, promoting the resident's independence in activities of daily living, and skills in working with families and caregivers. Health care practitioners' continuing education can be counted toward the required training hours.
- The DOEA or its designee must approve the initial and continuing training provided in the facilities. The DOEA must approve training offered in a variety of formats, including, but not limited to, Internet-based training, videos, teleconferencing, and classroom instruction. The DOEA must keep a list of current providers who are approved to provide initial and continuing training. The DOEA must adopt rules to establish standards for the trainers and the training required in this section of statute.
- Upon completing any training listed in the section, the employee or direct caregiver must be issued a certificate that includes the name of the training provider, the topic covered, and the date and signature of the training provider. The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or direct caregiver changes employment to a different facility or to an assisted living facility, home health agency, adult day care center, or adult family-care home. The direct caregiver must comply with other applicable continuing education requirements.

### ***Home Health Agencies***

Section 400.4785, F.S., requires a home health agency to provide the following staff training:

- Upon beginning employment with the agency, each employee must receive basic written information about interacting with participants who have ADRD.
- Newly-hired home health agency personnel who will be providing direct care to patients must complete two hours of training in ADRD within nine months after beginning employment with the agency. This training must include, but is not limited to, an overview of dementia, a demonstration of basic skills in communicating with persons who have dementia, the management of problem behaviors, information about promoting the client's independence in activities of daily living, and instruction in skills for working with families and caregivers.
- For certified nursing assistants, the required two hours of training are part of the total hours of training required annually.
- For a health care practitioner, as defined in s. 456.001, F.S., continuing education hours taken as required by that practitioner's licensing board are counted toward the total of two hours.
- For an employee who is a licensed health care practitioner, training that is sanctioned by that practitioner's licensing board must be considered to be approved by the DOEA.
- The DOEA, or its designee, must approve the required training. The DOEA must consider for approval training offered in a variety of formats. The DOEA must keep a list of current providers who are approved to provide the two-hour training. The DOEA must adopt rules to establish standards for the employees who are subject to this training, for the trainers, and for the training required in this section of statute.

- Upon completing the training listed in the section, the employee must be issued a certificate that states that the training mandated under the section has been received. The certificate must be dated and signed by the training provider. The certificate is evidence of completion of this training, and the employee is not required to repeat this training if the employee changes employment to a different home health agency.
- A licensed home health agency whose unduplicated census during the most recent calendar year was composed of at least 90 percent of individuals aged 21 years or younger at the date of admission, is exempt from the training requirements in this section of statute.

### *Hospice Providers*

Section 400.6045, F.S., requires a hospice provider to provide the following staff training:

- Upon beginning employment with the agency, each employee must receive basic written information about interacting with persons who have ADRD.
- Employees who are expected to, or whose responsibilities require them to, have direct contact with participants who have ADRD must complete initial training of at least one hour within the first three months after beginning employment. The training must include an overview of dementias and must provide instruction in basic skills for communicating with persons who have dementia.
- In addition, an employee who will be providing direct care to a participant who has ADRD must complete an additional three hours of training within nine months after beginning employment. This training must include, but is not limited to, the management of problem behaviors, information about promoting the patient's independence in activities of daily living, and instruction in skills for working with families and caregivers.
- For certified nursing assistants, the required four hours of training is part of the total hours of training required annually.
- For a health care practitioner as defined in s. 456.001, F.S., continuing education hours taken as required by that practitioner's licensing board are counted toward the total of four hours.
- For an employee who is a licensed health care practitioner as defined in s. 456.001, F.S., training that is sanctioned by that practitioner's licensing board is considered to be approved by the DOEA.
- The DOEA or its designee must approve the required one-hour and three-hour training provided to employees or direct caregivers under this section of statute. The DOEA must consider for approval training offered in a variety of formats. The DOEA must keep a list of current providers who are approved to provide the one-hour and three-hour training. The DOEA must adopt rules to establish standards for the employees who are subject to this training, for the trainers, and for the training required in this section of statute.
- Upon completing any training described in the section, the employee or direct caregiver must be issued a certificate that includes the name of the training provider, the topic covered, and the date and signature of the training provider. The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or direct caregiver changes employment to a different hospice or to a home health agency, assisted living facility, nursing home, or adult day care center.
- A hospice that claims it provides special care for persons who have ADRD must disclose in its advertisements or in a separate document those services that distinguish the care as being especially applicable to, or suitable for, such persons. The hospice must give a copy of all

such advertisements or a copy of the document to each person who requests information about programs and services for persons with ADRD offered by the hospice and must maintain a copy of all such advertisements and documents in its records. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) must examine all such advertisements and documents in the hospice's records as part of the license renewal procedure.

### ***Assisted Living Facilities***

Section 429.178, F.S., requires an ALF that advertises it provides special care for persons with ADRD to provide the following training:

- An employee who has regular contact with such residents must complete up to four hours of initial dementia-specific training developed or approved by the DOEA. The training must be completed within three months after beginning employment and satisfy the core training requirements of s. 429.52(3)(g), F.S.
- A direct caregiver who provides direct care to such residents must complete the required initial training and four additional hours of training developed or approved by the DOEA. The training must be completed within nine months after beginning employment and satisfy the core training requirements of s. 429.52(3)(g), F.S.
- An individual who is employed by a facility that provides special care for residents with ADRD, but who only has incidental contact with such residents, must be given, at a minimum, general information on interacting with individuals with ADRD, within three months after beginning employment.
- A direct caregiver must also participate in a minimum of four contact hours of continuing education each calendar year. The continuing education must include one or more topics included in the dementia-specific training, developed or approved by the DOEA, in which the caregiver has not received previous training.
- Upon completing any specified training, the employee or direct caregiver must be issued a certificate that includes the name of the training provider, the topic covered, and the date and signature of the training provider. The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or direct caregiver changes employment to a different facility. The employee or direct caregiver must comply with other applicable continuing education requirements.
- The DOEA, or its designee, must approve the initial and continuing education courses and providers.
- The DOEA must keep a current list of providers who are approved to provide initial and continuing education for staff of facilities that provide special care for persons with ADRD.

### ***Adult Day Care Centers***

Section 49.917, F.S., requires an adult day care center to provide the following staff training:

- Upon beginning employment with the facility, each employee must receive basic written information about interacting with participants who have ADRD.
- In addition to the information provided, newly-hired adult day care center personnel who are expected to, or whose responsibilities require them to, have direct contact with participants who have ADRD must complete initial training of at least one hour within the first three months after beginning employment. The training must include an overview of dementias

and must provide instruction in basic skills for communicating with persons who have dementia.

- In addition to the previous requirements, an employee who will be providing direct care to a participant who has ADRD must complete an additional three hours of training within nine months after beginning employment. This training must include, but is not limited to, the management of problem behaviors, information about promoting the participant's independence in activities of daily living, and instruction in skills for working with families and caregivers.
- For certified nursing assistants, the required four hours of training is part of the total hours of training required annually.
- For a health care practitioner as defined in s. 456.001, F.S., continuing education hours taken as required by that practitioner's licensing board are counted toward the total of four hours.
- For an employee who is a licensed health care practitioner as defined in s. 456.001, F.S., training that is sanctioned by that practitioner's licensing board is considered to be approved by the DOEA.
- The DOEA or its designee must approve the one-hour and three-hour training provided to employees and direct caregivers under this section of statute. The DOEA must consider for approval training offered in a variety of formats. The DOEA must keep a list of current providers who are approved to provide the one-hour and three-hour training. The DOEA must adopt rules to establish standards for the employees who are subject to this training, for the trainers, and for the training required in this section of statute.
- Upon completing any training described in the section, the employee or direct caregiver must be issued a certificate that includes the name of the training provider, the topic covered, and the date and signature of the training provider. The certificate is evidence of completion of training in the identified topic, and the employee or direct caregiver is not required to repeat training in that topic if the employee or direct caregiver changes employment to a different adult day care center or to an assisted living facility, nursing home, home health agency, or hospice. The direct caregiver must comply with other applicable continuing education requirements.

### ***Current Administration of ADRD Training***

The DOEA has authority for administering the existing ADRD training<sup>6</sup> and currently does so through a contract with the University of South Florida (USF).<sup>7</sup> USF, through its Training Academy on Aging, reviews and approves ADRD Training Providers and Training Curriculum Programs for the DOEA. The mission of the ADRD training program is to improve the care of individuals with ADRDs who receive services from nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies, adult day care centers, and hospice care facilities. The ADRD training program is designed to ensure that agency and facility staff members who have regular contact with or provide direct care to, persons with ADRD receive the relevant ADRD training.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Fla. Admin. Code R. 58A-5.0194 (2020).

<sup>7</sup> Contract XQ092, effective July 1, 2020, and AHCA Agreement AA412, effective July 21, 2020, between Department of Elder Affairs, USF Board of Trustees, and the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency).

<sup>8</sup> Department of Elder Affairs, *Senate Bill 634 Fiscal Analysis* (Feb. 2, 2021) (on file with the Senate Committee on Health Policy).

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Sections 1 and 2** of SB 634 establish the Florida Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Training Act. The bill creates s. 430.5025, F.S., to establish universal ADRD training requirements for nursing homes, home health agencies, hospice providers, ALFs, and adult day care centers. The bill defines the following terms:

- “Department” means the Department of Elderly Affairs.<sup>9</sup>
- “Direct care worker” means an individual who, as part of his or her employment duties, provides or has access to provide direct contact assistance with personal care or activities of daily living to clients, patients, or residents of any facility licensed under part II, part III, or part IV of ch. 400, F.S., or part I or part III of ch. 429, F.S.
- “Employee” means any staff member who has regular contact or incidental contact on a recurring basis with clients, patients, or residents of a facility licensed under part II, part III, or part IV of ch. 400, F.S., or part I or part III of ch. 429, F.S. The term includes, but is not limited to, direct care workers; staff responsible for housekeeping, the front desk, maintenance, and other administrative functions; and any other individuals who may have regular contact or incidental contact on a recurring basis with clients, patients, or residents.
- “Licensee” means a person or an entity licensed under part II, part III, or part IV of ch. 400, F.S., or part I or part III of ch. 429, F.S.

The bill requires that, as a condition of licensure, each licensee must provide one hour of dementia-related training to each of its employees within 30 days of their employment. The training must include methods for interacting with persons with ADRD and for identifying warning signs of dementia.

Any employee who is a direct care worker, as defined, must receive at least three hours of additional training within the first three months of employment if the direct care worker is expected or required to have direct contact with clients, patients, or residents with ADRD or with populations that are at a greater risk for ADRD. The three hours of training must include, but need not be limited to, an overview of ADRDs and person-centered care, assessment and care planning, activities of daily living, and dementia-related behaviors and communication for clients, patients, and residents with ADRD. Each such employee must also receive at least four hours of continuing education, approved by the DOEA, annually on the above topics and any related changes in state or federal law.

If the licensee advertises that it provides special care for individuals with ADRD, the licensee must require its direct care workers to complete four additional hours of initial training with a curriculum developed or approved by the DOEA. This training will count toward a certified nursing assistant’s annual training requirements.

If the employee is a health care practitioner, as defined in 456.001, F.S., the employee may count his or her continuing education hours for licensure to satisfy the three-hour and four-hour training requirements if his or her continuing education covers the required topics and the hours are approved by the DOEA.

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<sup>9</sup> Also known as the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA).



The DOEA is authorized to develop an evidence-based curriculum for the training requirements created by the bill and review the curriculum at least every four years to make any necessary revisions based on current research and best practices. The DOEA is encouraged to consult with a nationally recognized organization that has expertise in the care of individuals with ADRD to develop the curriculum. At a minimum the curriculum must include:

- An overview of ADRDs.
- Person-centered care.
- Assessment care and planning.
- Activities of daily living.
- Dementia-related behaviors and communication.

The DOEA or its designee is required to approve the courses that licensees may use to satisfy the training requirements in the bill, and the approved courses must be in a variety of formats, including but not limited to, Internet-based training, videos, teleconferencing, and classroom instruction. The DOEA or its designee must develop a process for registering training providers and maintaining a list of those providers approved to provide training required under the bill. To be approved, a training provider must have at least two years of experience related to ADRD, gerontology, health care, or a related field. The DOEA or its designee must issue each approved training provider a unique registration identifier.

The DOEA or its designee is also required to develop an assessment for each training topic required by the bill. Upon completion of any such training, the employee or direct care worker must pass the related assessment. If an employee or a direct care worker completes a training and passes the related assessment, the training provider must issue the employee or direct care worker a certificate that includes the training provider's name and unique identifier, the topic covered in the training, the date of completion, and the signature of the training provider. The certificate is evidence of completion of the training and assessment in the identified topic, and the employee or direct care worker is not required to repeat training in that topic if he or she changes employment to a different licensee, but he or she must comply with any applicable continuing education requirements.

The DOEA is required to adopt rules to implement section 2 of the bill.

**Section 7** amends s. 429.52, F.S., to require all ALFs to provide ADRD staff training pursuant to the requirements established in the bill. Currently, only ALFs who advertise they provide special care for patients with ADRD are required to provide such training.

**Sections 3-6 and section 8** amend ss. 400.1755, 400.4785, 400.6045, 429.178, and 429.917, F.S., respectively to repeal the individual ADRD training requirements in the licensure statutes for nursing homes, home health agencies, hospice providers, ALFs, and adult day care centers in favor of the uniform training requirements established by the bill.

**Section 9** provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

## D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

## E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

SB 634 may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on a facility required to provide ADRD training by the bill if such training is more extensive than what is required to be provided by the facility under current law.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 400.1755, 400.4785, 400.6045, 429.178, 429.52, and 429.917.

This bill creates section 430.5025 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. **Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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