

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 296

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

LAW ENFORCE/OFFICERS: Provides relative to training for law enforcement officers and first responders with regard to Alzheimer's and other dementia-related conditions

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2405.8(G) and to enact R.S. 40:1133.1(D) and 2405.8(H),  
3 relative to peace officer training; to provide for emergency medical personnel  
4 training; to create a dementia training program; to require the reporting of neglect  
5 and abuse; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:2405.8(G) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
8 40:1133.1(D) and 40:2405.8(H) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1133.1. Emergency medical personnel training; licensure

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11 D. The bureau shall create a dementia training program in cooperation with  
12 the Department of Health. Each emergency medical personnel shall complete the  
13 dementia training program. This training shall include instructions on identifying  
14 and interacting with people with Alzheimer's or other dementia, best practices on  
15 emergency medical care for them, and identifying signs of elder abuse as part of the  
16 basic training and continuing education.

17 (1) The initial training and continuing education classes shall cover all of the  
18 following:

19 (a) Dementia, psychiatric, and behavioral symptoms, and common medical  
20 emergencies experienced by people living with dementia.

1           (b) Communication issues, including how to communicate respectfully and  
2           effectively with the individual who has dementia in order to determine the most  
3           appropriate response and effective communication techniques to enhance  
4           collaboration with caregivers.

5           (c) How to address behavioral symptoms during the administration of  
6           emergency medical treatment.

7           (d) Identifying and reporting incidents of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

8           (e) Protocols for contacting caregivers when a person with dementia is found  
9           wandering, or during emergency or crisis situations.

10          (f) Local caregiving resources that are available for people living with  
11          dementia.

12          (2) First responders shall complete the initial dementia training within six  
13          months from their hiring date.

14          (3) The bureau shall ensure that the dementia training program remains up  
15          to date with current law practices.

16          (4) The bureau shall develop a process for reporting neglect, criminal abuse,  
17          sexual abuse, physical abuse and financial exploitation to law enforcement agencies.

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19       §2405.8. Additional peace officer training requirements

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21          G. The council shall create a dementia training program in cooperation with  
22          the Department of Health. Each peace officer shall complete the dementia training  
23          program. The training shall include instruction on the identification of people with  
24          Alzheimer's and other dementia, risks such as wandering and elder abuse, and the  
25          best practices for interacting with them.

26          (1) The initial training and continuing education classes shall cover all of the  
27          following:

28          (a) Dementia, psychiatric and behavioral symptoms.

1           (b) Communication issues, including how to communicate respectfully and  
2 effectively with the individual who has dementia in order to determine the most  
3 appropriate response and effective communication techniques to enhance  
4 collaboration with caregivers.

5           (c) Techniques for understanding and approaching behavioral symptoms and  
6 identifying alternatives to physical restraints.

7           (d) Identifying and reporting incidents of abuse, neglect, and exploitation to  
8 the appropriate law enforcement agency.

9           (e) Protocols for contacting caregivers when a person with dementia is found  
10 wandering, or during an emergency or crisis situations.

11           (f) Local caregiving resources that are available for people living with  
12 dementia.

13           (2) Peace officers shall complete the initial dementia training within six  
14 months from their hiring date.

15           (3) The council shall ensure that the dementia training program remains up  
16 to date with current law practices and provisions.

17           (4) The council shall develop a process for reporting neglect, criminal abuse,  
18 sexual abuse, physical abuse, and financial exploitation to law enforcement agencies.

19           H.(1) The council shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with  
20 the Administrative Procedure Act, subject to the oversight of the House Committee  
21 on the Administration of Criminal Justice and the Senate Committee on Judiciary B,  
22 for the implementation of a homicide investigator training program no later than July  
23 1, 2016.

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CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 296 Original

2019 Regular Session

Hoffmann

**Abstract:** Provides for the training of peace officers and first responders with respect to interacting with Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

Proposed law requires the bureau of emergency medical services and the Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training to create a dementia training program in cooperation with the Department of Health. Provides for the creation of an initial training program and updates to the continuing education program.

Proposed law provides for instructions on how to identify and interact with people who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia.

Proposed law requires newly hired emergency medical service professionals to complete the initial training program within six months and requires all emergency medical service professionals to report any and all abuse or neglect.

(Amends R.S. 40:2405.8(G); Adds R.S. 40:1133.1(D) and 2405.8(H))