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H.B. 23
134th General Assembly

Final Analysis

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Primary Sponsors: Reps. Plummer and West

Effective date: April 3, 2023

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SUMMARY

Dementia training for peace officers, emergency personnel

- Requires peace officers and emergency medical service personnel to undergo training in identifying and interacting with individuals with dementia.
- Requires the Attorney General and the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to adopt rules governing dementia training for peace officers and emergency medical service personnel.
- Requires the Attorney General and the Board to consult with the Department of Aging and the Department of Job and Family Services.

Maximum age for appointment of state highway patrol troopers

- Increases to age 40 (from age 35) the maximum age a person may be when appointed as state highway patrol trooper.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Dementia training for peace officers, emergency personnel

The act establishes training requirements for peace officers and emergency medical service personnel in identifying and interacting with individuals with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.¹ The peace officers subject to the act include members of police departments and various other types of law enforcement personnel.² The

¹ R.C. 109.7410, 4765.16, and 4765.162.

² R.C. 109.71, not in the act.

emergency medical service personnel subject to the act include first responders and each of the three types of emergency medical technicians (basic, intermediate, and paramedic).

The act requires the Attorney General to adopt rules establishing the number of hours of dementia training necessary for completion of basic training programs offered at approved peace officer training schools. Rules also must be adopted establishing the number of hours of dementia training that may be credited for continued professional training. For both basic and continued training, the act requires the amount of dementia-related training to be determined in accordance with guidance from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission, if needed. Further, the act specifies that the amount of dementia-related training cannot exceed two hours for basic training and one hour for continued professional training.³

The State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services is required to adopt rules establishing the number of hours of dementia training that must be completed by emergency medical service personnel. The training is to be included as a course within each emergency medical services training program and continuing education program. The initial course must include at least two hours of instruction in dementia-related topics and each continuing education course must include at least one hour of instruction in those topics.⁴

Training topics

The dementia training required for peace officers and emergency medical service personnel must include instruction in all of the following topics:

- Identifying individuals with dementia, including psychiatric and behavioral symptoms of dementia;
- Respectful and effective communication techniques for communicating with individuals with dementia and their caregivers;
- Techniques for addressing the behavioral symptoms of dementia, including alternatives to physical restraint in the case of peace officers;
- Identifying and reporting incidents of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals with dementia to the appropriate county department of job and family services;⁵
- Protocols for contacting caregivers when an individual with dementia is found wandering or during an emergency or crisis situation;
- Local resources available for individuals with dementia;

³ R.C. 109.7410(B).

⁴ R.C. 4765.16 and 4765.162(B) and (C).

⁵ R.C. 5101.63, not in the act.

- Local and national organizations that assist peace officers and emergency medical service personnel with locating missing and wandering individuals with dementia and returning them to their caregivers.⁶

Consultation with other state agencies

The act requires the Attorney General, in adopting rules for dementia-related training, to consult with the Department of Aging and Department of Job and Family Services. Similarly, the Board is required, in developing a dementia-related training course for emergency medical service personnel, to consult with both departments.⁷

Maximum age for appointment of state highway patrol troopers

The act increases the maximum age that a person may be at the time of appointment as a state highway patrol trooper. Rather than becoming ineligible after reaching age 35, a person may be appointed until reaching age 40. As provided under the previous age limit, a person who reaches age 40 while attending a state highway patrol training school for prospective troopers may continue the training and remains eligible for appointment.⁸

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-03-21
Reported, H. Commerce & Labor	03-23-21
Passed House (90-2)	04-15-21
Reported, S. Veterans and Public Safety	12-06-22
Passed Senate (29-0)	12-07-22
House concurred in Senate amendments (89-1)	12-13-22

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⁶ R.C. 109.7410(C) and 4765.162(C).

⁷ R.C. 109.7410(B) and 4765.162(B).

⁸ R.C. 5503.01.