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H.B. 23*
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Veterans and Public Safety

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Plummer and West

Jason Hoskins, Attorney

Margaret Marcy, Attorney

SUMMARY

Dementia training

- Requires peace officers and specified 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 Departments of Aging and Job and Family Services.

Maximum age of newly appointed state highway patrol

- Increases the maximum age authorized for a newly appointed state highway patrol trooper from 35 to 40 years old.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Dementia training

The bill 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 bill include members

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

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

of police departments and various other types of law enforcement personnel.² The emergency medical service personnel subject to the bill include all of the following: (1) first responders, (2) emergency medical technicians-basic, (3) emergency medical technicians-intermediate, and (4) emergency medical technicians-paramedic.

Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to adopt rules establishing the number of hours of dementia training that are 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. The bill specifies that the amount of dementia-related training necessary for completion of basic training and that may be credited for continuing professional training must be determined in accordance with guidance from the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission, if needed. The amount of dementia-related training for peace officers cannot exceed two hours for initial training and one hour of instruction 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. Similar to the training for peace officers, 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 in accordance with existing law;⁵

² R.C. 109.71, not in the bill.

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 bill.

- 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;
- 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 Departments of Aging and Job and Family Services

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

Maximum age of newly appointed state highway patrol

Under current law, at the time of appointment, a state highway patrol trooper must be at least 21, but younger than 35 years old. A person who is attending a state highway patrol training school for prospective new troopers who turns 35 during his or her attendance is eligible for official appointment (even though otherwise exceeding the age limit). The bill modifies this maximum appointment age, for both the time of appointment and the training school exemption, by increasing it from 35 to 40.⁸

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	---

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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.