

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1549
By: Nelson
Public Health
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

As the country's population continues to age, dementia is affecting a larger number of people. Dementia, which is defined as a loss of intellectual functioning (thinking, remembering, and reasoning) that is so severe that it interferes with an individual's daily functioning and eventually results in death, and can require in-depth care for the duration of the disease.

Registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, nurses aides, and nursing assistants who provide direct services to the elderly in nursing homes are currently not required to complete any training in dementia. Because understanding dementia and effective care strategies is vital for providing adequate care for dementia patients, training is necessary.

SB 1549 would require each institution to provide at least one hour of dementia specific training per year to registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, nurse aides, and nursing assistants who provide nursing services in an institution.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

The bill requires institutions to provide at least one hour of dementia specific training per year to registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses, nurse aides, and nursing assistants who provide nursing services in an institution.

States that the legislative intent of this Act would not impose any training requirement on an institution that would incur additional costs to the institution.

The bill requires the Texas Board of Human Services to adopt minimum standards required by the above section in time to take effect on January 1, 2004.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003