

By: Zaffirini, Menéndez

S.B. No. 1536

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to training on Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and related disorders for certain guardians.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 155.203(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In adopting rules under this section, the supreme court shall ensure that:

(1) the commission is required to provide confirmation of a person's completion of the training required by Section 155.204(a)(1) and a copy of the person's criminal history background check to the probate court not later than the 10th day before the date of the hearing to appoint a guardian; and

(2) a probate court is required to ensure a guardian's timely completion of the training required by Section 155.204(a)(2), unless the training is waived by the probate court as provided by Section 155.204(a)(3).

SECTION 2. Section 155.204, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) In adopting rules under Section 155.203, the supreme court shall:

(1) subject to Subdivision (3) [~~(2)~~], ensure that before a person is appointed guardian, the person completes a

training course:

(A) designed by the commission to educate proposed guardians about their responsibilities as guardians, alternatives to guardianships, supports and services available to the proposed ward, and a ward's bill of rights under Section 1151.351, Estates Code; and

(B) made available for free to proposed guardians by the commission online via the commission's Internet website and, on request, in a written format; ~~and~~

(2) subject to Subdivision (3) and Subsection (a-1), ensure that not later than the sixth month after the date a guardian is appointed and at least once a year after the initial training under this subdivision, the guardian completes a one-hour training course:

(A) designed to educate guardians on Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and related disorders, including providing information about:

(i) common aspects of aging;
(ii) warning signs of dementia and Alzheimer's disease;
(iii) effective strategies for communicating with a person who is diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease; and

(iv) effective strategies for supporting a person who is diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease in exercising the person's rights; and

(B) from a list of one or more training courses

1 approved by the commission and made available for free to guardians
2 online via the commission's Internet website; and

3 (3) identify the circumstances under which a court may
4 waive the training required under this section.

5 (a-1) Subsection (a)(2) applies only to a guardian of the
6 person or the estate, or both, of a ward who is:

7 (1) 60 years of age or older; or

8 (2) younger than 60 years of age if the ward has been
9 diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or a related
10 disorder.

11 SECTION 3. (a) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Texas
12 Supreme Court shall adopt the rules required under Sections 155.203
13 and 155.204, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

14 (b) Not later than July 1, 2026, the Judicial Branch
15 Certification Commission shall approve and make available on the
16 commission's Internet website the list of training courses required
17 by Section 155.204(a)(2), Government Code, as amended by this Act.

18 (c) Notwithstanding Section 155.204(a), Government Code, as
19 amended by this Act, a guardian appointed before July 1, 2026, who
20 is required to complete the training required by Section
21 155.204(a)(2), Government Code, as amended by this Act, shall
22 complete the initial training required by that section not later
23 than January 1, 2027.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.