



Senate Bill 897 – Maryland Department of Health- Residential Services Agencies- Training Requirements Senate Finance Committee, March 5, 2020

House Bill 1168 – Maryland Department of Health- Residential Services Agencies- Training Requirements House & Government Operations Committee, March 5, 2020

POSITION: ONE AMENDMENT SUPPORT

United Seniors of Maryland, USM supports **ONLY ONE AMENDMENT** to provide appropriate training for seniors with cognitive dementia or Alzheimer’s under the Residential Services Agency licensure regulated under the Office of Health Care Quality.

Maryland seniors strongly recognize the growing shortage of caregivers. The current bill language does not take in account the removal of their caregivers every year for six hours of training and the additional & ongoing training costs to the senior consumer.

Maryland seniors represent 22% of the state’s population and growing every day.

United Seniors of Maryland represents 2.5 million senior coalition across the State of Maryland. USM is a non-partisan and non-profit advocating for seniors safety and wellbeing for over 43 years.

USM recognizes the proposed bill language is too onerous, narrow and costly.

United Seniors of Maryland urges the following AMENDMENT:

19-4A-03.1

(A) EACH RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AGENCY SHALL ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE REFERRED BY THE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AGENCY TO PROVIDE HOME CARE SERVICES TO CLIENTS WHO HAVE ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE OR DEMENTIA RECEIVE APPROPRIATE TRAINING ON ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA TO CARE FOR THE CLIENT.

(B) THE TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF INSTRUCTION:

- (1) AN OVERVIEW OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA;
- (2) PERSON-CENTERED CARE;
- (3) AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ASSESSMENT AND CARE PLANNING PROCESS;
- (4) ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING; AND
- (5) ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA BEHAVIORS AND COMMUNICATION.

(C) THE TRAINING PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION MAY BE COMPLETED THROUGH AN ONLINE COURSE OR IN-PERSON TRAINING, INCLUDING TRAINING PROVIDED BY A DELEGATING OR SUPERVISORY NURSE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRAINING OR DEVELOPING THE CLIENT'S PLAN OF CARE AND ASSIGNING APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL.

(D) THE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AGENCY SHALL RETAIN RECORDS OF THE TYPE OF TRAINING PROVIDED IN THE PERSONNEL FILE ON THE INDIVIDUAL REFERRED TO PROVIDE HOME CARE SERVICES TO THE AGENCY'S CLIENT.

(E) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO PROVIDERS OF HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT an individual referred by a residential service agency to provide home care services to a client as of October 1, 2020 who has otherwise not received training equivalent to the training described in this Act, shall receive the training on or before July 1, 2021.

USM urges your favorable report with THIS ONE AMENDMENT.

If you have any questions, please contact
United Seniors of Maryland at 410.608.7966.