AN ACT to create 146.43 of the statutes; relating to: dementia specialist certification.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a dementia specialist certification. The bill prohibits any person from using the title “dementia specialist” or “certified dementia specialist” without the certification. If a person successfully completes an instructional program that provides the instruction specified in the bill, the instructional program administrator must certify that person as a dementia specialist.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 146.43 of the statutes is created to read:

146.43 Dementia specialist certification. (1) INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM;

certification. (a) If an instructional program provides instruction on all of the following, the program may offer a dementia specialist certification:
1. Understanding the signs and symptoms of the various forms of dementia and
the possible variations in care needs among individuals affected by the various forms
of dementia.

2. How to approach, observe, listen to, and communicate with an individual
with dementia.

3. Recognizing pain in an individual with dementia.

4. Skills and techniques for encouraging purposeful activities to provide
holistic care intended to promote optimal life experiences for persons with dementia.

5. Understanding the needs of an individual with dementia, how to develop a
trusting relationship within the challenges of the effects of dementia, and how to
avoid and manage behaviors that may be harmful to the individual or others.

6. Communication skills necessary to communicate with coworkers,
professionals, and families regarding individuals with dementia.

7. Skills necessary to effectively advocate for the needs and interests of persons
with dementia.

8. Developing and using care plans to assist individuals with dementia in
experiencing the highest possible quality of life.


(b) An instructional program administrator who is offering a dementia
specialist certification under par. (a) shall certify as a dementia specialist any person
who successfully completes, under criteria established by the instructional program
administrator, the instructional program described under par. (a).
(2) Prohibitions on use of title. No person may use the title “dementia specialist” or “certified dementia specialist” unless he or she is certified under sub. (1).