

SESSION OF 2025

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 88**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Public Health and Welfare

**Brief\***

SB 88 would amend the Long-term Care Ombudsman Act to require the State Long-term Care Ombudsman (LTC Ombudsman) to include Alzheimer's and other dementia (collectively referred to herein as "dementia") training in the prescribed and provided training, as specified in the bill. The bill would require the training to address the needs and rights of long-term care residents with dementia, include strategies to care for and address the specific issues encountered by such residents, and include a list of specific topics to be addressed in such training. The bill would also make technical amendments.

***LTC Ombudsmen Training Requirement***

The bill would require the LTC Ombudsman to include in the prescribed and provided training specific dementia care training. [*Note:* Current law requires the LTC Ombudsman to prescribe and provide training to regional long-term care ombudsmen, employees of the Office of the Long-term Care Ombudsman (Office) who have successfully completed ombudsman training and who represent the Office as a designated ombudsman, and volunteer ombudsman (collectively referred to as "ombudsmen").]

***Training Topics***

The bill would require that the training provided to ombudsmen pertaining to the needs and rights of long-term

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

care residents with dementia and the strategies to care for and address issues experienced by such residents include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

- Understanding the warning signs and symptoms of dementia;
- Knowledge of person-centered dementia care;
- Effectively communicating with individuals living with dementia;
- Recognizing behavioral symptoms, including alternatives to physical and chemical restraints for residents;
- Addressing specific threats to resident's safety, such as wandering;
- Referring residents' care partners and families to accurate and up-to-date sources of information, support, and resources regarding dementia; and
- Protocols for connecting individuals living with dementia to local care resources and professionals skilled in dementia care to encourage cross-referral and reporting regarding incidents of abuse.

## **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare at the request of Senator Blasi on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association.

### ***Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by the LTC Ombudsman, a nurse practitioner, a representative of the Alzheimer's Association, a volunteer community educator with the Alzheimer's Association, and a

private citizen. The conferees generally stated the benefits of dementia care training for ombudsmen as they advocate for the rights and overall well-being of individuals residing in adult care homes. The LTC Ombudsman provided information regarding the federally required training for initial certification for ombudsmen that includes the topic of Alzheimer's and related dementia, noting and recommending the bill be amended to better align with the Office's mission and the values of preserving all resident rights.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Kansas Advocates for Better Care, LeadingAge Kansas, a former LTC ombudsman, and six private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency.

The Department of Administration states that if the LTC Ombudsman would be allowed to provide the training, there would be no additional fiscal effect for enactment of the bill. However, if the LTC Ombudsman would be required to bring in an outside provider, there would be costs of hiring a consultant and hosting an educational event.

Long-term Care Ombudsman Act; State Long-term Care Ombudsman; Alzheimer's disease; dementia; memory care training; regional long-term care ombudsman; ombudsman volunteer