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HOUSE . . . . . No. 3947

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Twelve

An Act providing for dementia-specific training for certain employees of long-term care facilities..

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to provide regulations for dementia special care units in longterm care facilities given the increased level of dementia among residents, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 71B the following sections:-

Section 71C. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department, in consultation with the alzheimer's association of massachusetts and representatives from the nursing home provider community, shall promulgate regulations to establish minimum standards for dementia special care units to ensure safety and quality of services including:

1. Dementia-specific training for all direct care workers, activities directors and supervisors of direct care workers in both traditional nursing homes and dementia special care units

10 2. Activities programs in dementia special care units that provide dementia-specific
11 activities.

12 3. Guidelines for dementia special care unit physical design including, but not limited, to
13 anti-wandering methods and promoting a therapeutic environment.

14 (b) A licensee under section 71 that holds itself out to the public or advertises that it is a
15 provider of specialized services and programming for dementia special care units in long term
16 care facilities shall meet the standards set forth under this section in order to provide said
17 services. Nursing homes that operate dementia special care units shall disclose to consumers
18 and the department what specialized services the dementia special care unit provides for patients
19 affected by alzheimer's and related dementias.

20 (c) A licensee of the department under section 71 shall be required to provide dementia
21 specific training for all direct care workers, activities directors and supervisors of direct care
22 workers in facilities that do not hold themselves out to the public or advertise that they are
23 providers of specialized services and programming for dementia special care units in long term
24 care facilities.

25 SECTION 2. Any regulation promulgated by the department under this section may not
26 be used as the basis for higher reimbursement rates for licensees under section 71.

27 SECTION 3. The department shall promulgate its initial regulations to implement this
28 act no later than January 1, 2013.