



PA 26-50—sHB 5143

Aging Committee

Appropriations Committee

**AN ACT REQUIRING TRAINING FOR HOMEMAKER-COMPANION
AGENCY EMPLOYEES**

SUMMARY: Beginning January 1, 2027, this act requires homemaker-companion agencies to annually provide at least eight hours of paid training to both their new and current employees, unless they are exempt as described below. The training must be on certain topics (such as identifying abuse and best practices in personal hygiene) from a list of training programs approved by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner.

The act requires each homemaker-companion agency to annually attest to DCP, as the commissioner directs and starting by January 1, 2027, that it will adhere to the training requirements. It also allows the agencies to advertise that they comply with state-mandated training requirements and include specific training topics that are covered.

Additionally, the act requires each homemaker-companion registry (see BACKGROUND) to ensure that anyone it refers or supplies to, or places with, a consumer has completed every DCP-approved training program at least once every two years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision allowing agencies to advertise compliance with training requirements is effective January 1, 2027.

HOMEMAKER-COMPANION TRAININGS

DCP-Approved List of Trainings

The act requires the DCP commissioner, by October 1, 2026, to develop a list of approved homemaker-companion agency employee training programs, limited to the topics listed below. In doing so, he must consult with the commissioners of public health, social services, developmental services, and mental health and addiction services. DCP must post the list on its website.

New Hire and Continuing Education Trainings

Under the act, new employees must take trainings on at least the following topics within 90 days after starting work (unless exempt, as described below):

1. maintaining a clean and safe environment, including best practices for dressing, bathing, and toileting assistance;
2. identifying and reporting (a) abuse and neglect and (b) changes in a client's condition and service needs; and

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3. if the employee will be attending to clients with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, providing nonmedical services to them.

Employees must also take annual continuing education training (unless exempt, as described below), which includes the above-listed trainings as well as:

1. communication,
2. differentiating between medical and nonmedical care, and
3. any other topic the commissioners deem appropriate.

The act requires agencies to make sure each employee takes each training at least once every two years.

Exempt Employees

The act exempts new employees from the initial trainings if, within three years before being hired, they took the trainings while employed by a different homemaker-companion agency. To be exempt, the employee must provide the form described below, showing he or she already completed these trainings.

The act also exempts from the training requirements any employee who is a registered nurse's aide, a home health aide, a personal care attendant, or employed in a position (administrative, for example) that does not provide homemaker or companion services (see BACKGROUND).

Under the act, a home health aide is someone employed by a home health aide agency, which generally provides supportive services, like assistance with dressing and feeding, in the patient's home under a registered nurse's supervision. These services exclude assisting people who have chronic and stable diseases or conditions.

Training Records

After an employee completes a training required by the act, the agency and employee must complete a form attesting to this, as directed by the DCP commissioner. The form must indicate the training and the date it was completed, include the agency's and employee's names, and be signed by both parties.

The act requires the agency to keep paper or electronic copies of these forms in employees' personnel files. The agency must also keep a list of all training programs it used and a summary of their content.

BACKGROUND

Homemaker-Companion Agencies, Registries, and Services

By law, a "homemaker-companion agency" is generally an organization that either employs or refers people to provide companion or homemaker services to consumers. "Registries" supply, refer, or place an independent contractor with a consumer, who directly pays the contractor, to provide these services.

"Homemaker services" are nonmedical and supportive services such as cooking, cleaning, and personal hygiene. "Companion services" are nonmedical,

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basic supervision services that ensure a healthy and safe environment for a person in his or her home (CGS §§ 20-670 & -679a).