

ASSEMBLY, No. 2457

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman TENNILLE R. MCCOY

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

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District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

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Assemblywomen Peterpaul, Donlon, Speight, Assemblyman Spearman and

Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to include memory care training in annual long-term care training program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/24/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning memory care training and amending P.L.1977,
2 c.239.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.239 (C.52:27G-5) shall be amended
8 as follows:

9 5. The ombudsman, as administrator and chief executive
10 officer of the office, shall:

11 a. Administer and organize the work of the office and establish
12 therein such administrative subdivisions as necessary, proper, and
13 expedient. He or she may formulate and adopt rules and regulations
14 and prescribe duties for the efficient conduct of the business, work,
15 and general administration of the office. He or she may delegate to
16 subordinate officers or employees in the office such power as may
17 be desirable to be exercised under his or her supervision and
18 control;

19 b. Appoint and remove such stenographic, clerical, and other
20 secretarial assistants as may be required for the proper conduct of
21 the office, subject to the provisions of Title 11 (Civil Service) of the
22 Revised Statutes, and other applicable statutes, and within the limits
23 of funds appropriated or otherwise made available therefor. In
24 addition, and within such funding limits, the ombudsman may
25 appoint, retain, or employ, without regard to the provisions of the
26 said Title 11 (Civil Service), or any other statutes, such officers,
27 investigators, experts, consultants, or other professionally qualified
28 personnel on a contract basis or otherwise as necessary.

29 c. Appoint and employ, notwithstanding the provisions of
30 P.L.1944, c.20 (C.52:17A-1 et seq.), a general counsel and such
31 other attorneys or counsel as he or she may require, for the purpose,
32 among other things, of providing legal advice on such matters as the
33 ombudsman may from time to time require, of attending to and
34 dealing with all litigation, controversies, and legal matters in which
35 the office may be a party or in which its rights and interests may be
36 involved, and of representing the office in all proceedings or actions
37 of any kind which may be brought for or against it in any court of
38 this State. With respect to all of the foregoing, such counsel and
39 attorneys shall be independent of any supervision or control by the
40 Attorney General or by the Department of Law and Public Safety,
41 or by any division or officer thereof;

42 d. Have authority to adopt and promulgate pursuant to law such
43 rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the purposes of this
44 act;

45 e. Maintain suitable headquarters for the office and such other
46 quarters as necessary to the proper functioning of the office;

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 f. Solicit and accept grants of funds from the federal
2 government and from other public and any private sources for any
3 of the purposes of this act; provided, however, that any such funds
4 shall be expended only pursuant to an appropriation made by law;

5 g. Perform such other functions as may be prescribed in this act
6 or by any other law; and

7 h. Establish, in consultation with the Department of Health, an
8 annual long-term care training program in a manner to be
9 determined by the ombudsman. At a minimum, the program shall
10 address the following subjects: the rights of residents of long-term
11 care facilities; fostering choice and independence among residents
12 of long-term care facilities; identifying and reporting abuse,
13 neglect, or exploitation of residents of long-term care facilities; the
14 needs and rights of long-term care residents who have Alzheimer's
15 disease and related disorders, and methods to deal with the specific
16 problems encountered by such residents; long-term care facility
17 ownership; updates on State and federal guidelines, laws, and
18 regulations that pertain to long-term care facilities; and issues,
19 trends, and policies that impact the rights of long-term care
20 residents. The annual training program shall be completed by the
21 ombudsman's investigative and advocacy staff, the ombudsman's
22 volunteer advocates, and Department of Health long-term care
23 facility surveyors, inspectors, and complaint investigators. Subject
24 to the availability of staff and funding, the training program shall be
25 offered to residents of long-term care facilities, those residents'
26 family members, advocacy organizations, government agencies, and
27 long-term care facility employees. To develop and implement the
28 training program, the ombudsman may contract or consult with a
29 non-profit organization that possesses expertise on the rights of
30 residents in long-term care settings.

31 (cf: P.L.2021, c.294, s.1)

32
33 2. (New section) a. In the event that, one year after the effective
34 date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
35 annual long-term care training program established pursuant to
36 subsection h. of section 5 of P.L.1977, c.239 (C.52:27G-5) does not
37 include training on the needs and rights of long-term care residents
38 who have Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders and methods to
39 deal with the specific problems encountered by such residents, the
40 State Long-Term Care Ombudsman shall appear before the committee
41 of first reference in which this act was considered in each House, or
42 before another standing reference committee in the General Assembly
43 as may be determined by the Speaker of the General Assembly and in
44 the Senate as may be determined by the President of the Senate, to
45 explain why the training program does not include training on the
46 needs and rights of long-term care residents who have Alzheimer's
47 Disease and related disorders and methods to deal with the specific
48 problems encountered by such residents, and the steps the ombudsman

1 is taking to ensure the full implementation of this act. Thereafter, for
2 such time as the training program does not include training on the
3 needs and rights of long-term care residents who have Alzheimer's
4 Disease and related disorders and methods to deal with the specific
5 problems encountered by such residents, the Speaker of the General
6 Assembly shall have the authority to require the ombudsman to appear
7 before any appropriate General Assembly standing reference
8 committee to explain why this act has not been implemented in
9 accordance with its provisions and the steps that are being taken to
10 ensure the full implementation of this act, and the President of the
11 Senate shall have the authority to require the ombudsman to appear
12 before any appropriate Senate standing reference committee to explain
13 why this act has not been implemented in accordance with its
14 provisions and the steps that are being taken to ensure the full
15 implementation of this act.

16 b. This section shall expire at such time as the annual long-term
17 care training program established pursuant to subsection h. of section 5
18 of P.L.1977, c.239 (C.52:27G-5) includes training on the needs and
19 rights of long-term care residents who have Alzheimer's Disease and
20 related disorders and methods to deal with the specific problems
21 encountered by such residents.

22

23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.