STATE OF NEW YORK

1782

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HINCHEY, ROLISON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to dementia care and to establishing the position of dementia care coordinator in the state office for the aging to manage the work of dementia care navigators and requiring each area agency to employ a dementia care navigator

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The elder law is amended by adding a new section 226 to read as follows:

§ 226. Dementia care. 1. As used in this section:

(a) "Area agency" means the local agency that the state office for the aging designates in accordance with the federal Older Americans Act of 1965 to administer the delivery of a comprehensive and coordinated plan of social and other services and activities for seniors in a planning and service area.

(b) "Dementia care navigator" means a program which provides support for caregivers of individuals with dementia, including providing assistance with care planning and referral to support groups.

2. The state office for the aging shall establish the position of dementia care coordinator. The dementia care coordinator shall manage the work of dementia care navigators employed pursuant to this section.

3. (a) Each area agency shall employ a dementia care navigator. An area agency may designate a dementia care navigator from existing staff or hire an individual to be the dementia care navigator.

(b) A dementia care navigator shall:

(1) provide cognitive screening and programs that engage individuals with dementia in regular exercise and social activities;

(2) provide support for caregivers of individuals with dementia, including providing assistance with care planning and referral to support groups;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(3) provide community support by assisting in the development of dementia-friendly communities in order to increase civic awareness and dementia-capable emergency response;

(4) consult with and provide technical assistance to area agency staff who interact with individuals with:

(i) a dementia diagnoses; or

(ii) cognitive changes associated with dementia; and

(5) establish relationships with health care providers and facilitate contact between health care providers and:

(i) individuals with dementia;

(ii) caregivers of individuals with dementia; and

(6) provide any other appropriate service generally related to demen-tia or dementia care.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.