

**House File 893 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 893  
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 284)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to area agencies on aging, dementia service  
2 specialists, and a dementia services coordinator.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **231.33A Area agencies on aging —**  
2 **dementia service specialists.**

3 1. Each area agency on aging shall provide for the position  
4 of a dementia service specialist in an effort to increase access  
5 and connections to local supports and services for persons living  
6 with dementia, their families, and caregivers, and to increase  
7 awareness about dementia within the network of area agency  
8 on aging providers as well as in counties, communities, and  
9 businesses throughout the state. In addition, the department  
10 shall provide for the position of a dementia services coordinator  
11 to provide statewide coordination of dementia initiatives and  
12 dementia service specialists.

13 2. The duties of a dementia service specialist shall include  
14 but are not limited to all of the following:

15 a. Supporting people living with dementia, their families,  
16 and caregivers including through conducting education and  
17 outreach activities to increase community awareness of dementia  
18 and the resources available to support individuals with dementia  
19 and their caregivers.

20 b. Providing referrals to support groups, respite care  
21 providers, research opportunities, and other community resources.

22 c. Conducting community cognitive screenings, and training  
23 area agency on aging staff to conduct cognitive screenings.

24 d. Building dementia-capable area agencies on aging through  
25 staff trainings, resources, and support.

26 e. Promoting dementia-capable communities by serving as  
27 a supporter for dementia-friendly initiatives, presenting  
28 dementia-friendly sessions and trainings to consumers and  
29 businesses, and serving as a resource for dementia-friendly  
30 community action teams.

31 f. Providing technical assistance for internal and external  
32 program planning to enhance relevance and improve access for  
33 people living with dementia including through support groups,  
34 evidence-based programs, meal sites, and home-delivered meal  
35 programs.

1 g. Providing training and technical assistance related to  
2 dementia, and how to work effectively with a person who has  
3 dementia in a crisis situation, to first responder or public  
4 safety agencies including law enforcement, emergency medical  
5 service providers, fire and rescue teams, adult protective  
6 services workers, and crisis response workers within the service  
7 area.

8 3. The duties of a dementia services coordinator shall  
9 include but are not limited to the following:

10 a. Coordinating state-funded and privately funded dementia  
11 services within the state.

12 b. Coordinating the dementia service specialist program  
13 within the area agencies on aging.

14 c. Coordinating the implementation of the Alzheimer's disease  
15 and related dementias state plan.

16 d. Assessing and analyzing dementia-related data collected by  
17 the state.

18 e. Evaluating state-funded dementia services.

19 f. Identifying and supporting the development of  
20 dementia-specific trainings.

21 g. Performing other duties as may be required to ensure the  
22 state is addressing Alzheimer's and related dementias.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill relates to area agencies on aging, dementia service  
27 specialists, and a dementia services coordinator.

28 The bill requires each area agency on aging to provide for  
29 the position of a dementia service specialist (specialist) to  
30 increase access and connections to local supports and services  
31 for persons living with dementia, their families, and caregivers,  
32 and to increase awareness about dementia within the network of  
33 area agency on aging providers and in communities and businesses  
34 throughout the state. The bill also requires the department of  
35 health and human services (HHS) to provide for the position of a

1 dementia services coordinator (coordinator) to provide statewide  
2 coordination of dementia initiatives and specialists.

3 The bill provides that, at a minimum, the duties of a  
4 specialist shall include providing support, providing referrals,  
5 conducting cognitive screenings, building dementia-capable area  
6 agencies on aging, promoting dementia-capable communities, and  
7 providing technical assistance as detailed in the bill.

8 The bill provides the duties of a coordinator shall include  
9 coordinating dementia services throughout the state, coordinating  
10 the specialist program, coordinating the Alzheimer's disease and  
11 related dementias state plan, evaluating state dementia services,  
12 identifying trainings, and performing other duties as may be  
13 required.

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