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HOUSE BILL NO. 1103

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 14, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact § 18.2-251.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing medetomidine; penalties.

Patron—Hodges

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 18.2-251.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 18.2-251.5. Manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing medetomidine or xylazine; penalties.**

A. Any person who knowingly manufactures, sells, gives, distributes, or possesses with the intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute the substance *medetomidine or* xylazine, when intended for human consumption, is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

B. Any person who knowingly possesses the substance *medetomidine or* xylazine, when intended for human consumption, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

C. Notwithstanding subsections A and B, it shall not be an offense to (i) manufacture *medetomidine or* xylazine for legitimate veterinary use; (ii) distribute or sell *medetomidine or* xylazine for authorized veterinary use; (iii) possess, administer, prescribe, or dispense *medetomidine or* xylazine in good faith for use by animals within the course of legitimate veterinary practice; or (iv) possess or administer *medetomidine or* xylazine pursuant to a valid prescription from a licensed veterinarian.

2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

INTRODUCED

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