

2026 SESSION

LEGISLATION NOT PREPARED BY DLS INTRODUCED

26105536D

1 **SENATE BILL NO. 708**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-2971.2, relating to physicians;*
5 *informed consent; disclosure of certain information prior to hysterectomy or oophorectomy.*

6 Patron—Stuart

7 Referred to Committee on Education and Health

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-2971.2 as follows:**

10 **§ 54.1-2971.2. *Informed consent for hysterectomy and oophorectomy procedures.***

11 *A. Except as provided in subsection C, before a physician performs a hysterectomy or an oophorectomy,*
12 *the physician shall obtain oral and written informed consent from the patient. The informed consent*
13 *procedure must ensure that, at least two weeks before the patient signs the consent form, the patient is*
14 *provided with:*

15 *1. Notice that the patient is free to withhold or withdraw consent to the procedure at any time before the*
16 *hysterectomy or oophorectomy without affecting the patient's right to future care or treatment and without*
17 *loss or withdrawal of any state or federally funded program benefits to which the patient might be otherwise*
18 *entitled.*

19 *2. Referral to the Hysterectomy Educational Resources and Services (HERS) Foundation and the HERS*
20 *website.*

21 *3. A color copy of the following diagrams:*

22 *a. The female pelvic organs.*

23 *b. Supporting structures of the female pelvic organs.*

24 *c. Nerve supply to the uterus and ovaries.*

25 *d. Arteries and veins that provide blood supply to the female pelvic organs.*

26 *B. The patient shall sign a written statement before the hysterectomy or oophorectomy is performed*
27 *indicating that the patient read and understood the information provided under subsection A and that the*
28 *patient's attending physician and surgeon, or the attending physician's and surgeon's designee or designees,*
29 *discussed this information with the patient. The statement must indicate that the patient's attending physician*
30 *or the physician's designee advised the patient that the hysterectomy or oophorectomy will render the patient*
31 *permanently sterile and incapable of having children.*

32 *C. The informed consent procedure under this section shall not be required when the hysterectomy or*
33 *oophorectomy is performed in a life-threatening emergency situation in which the attending physician*
34 *determines prior written informed consent is not possible.*

INTRODUCED

SB708