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HOUSE BILL NO. 1390

Offered January 21, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 38.2-3407.7, 38.2-4209.1, and 38.2-4312.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; pharmacies; freedom of choice; delivery of prescription drugs; penalties.

Patron—Ward

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 38.2-3407.7, 38.2-4209.1, and 38.2-4312.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 38.2-3407.7. Pharmacies; freedom of choice.

A. Notwithstanding any provision of § 38.2-3407 to the contrary, no insurer or its pharmacy benefits manager, as defined in § 38.2-3465, proposing to issue either preferred provider policies or contracts or exclusive provider policies or contracts shall prohibit any person receiving pharmacy benefits, including specialty pharmacy benefits, furnished thereunder from selecting, without limitation, the pharmacy, as defined in § 54.1-3300 and including any physician practice that dispenses or administers drugs, medicines, or medicinal chemicals, of his choice to furnish such benefits. This right of selection extends to and includes any pharmacy that is a nonpreferred or nonparticipating provider and that has previously notified the insurer on its own behalf or through an intermediary, by facsimile or otherwise, of its agreement to accept reimbursement for its services at rates applicable to pharmacies that are preferred or participating providers, including any copayment consistently imposed by the insurer, as payment in full. Each insurer or its pharmacy benefits manager shall permit prompt electronic or telephonic transmittal of the reimbursement agreement by the pharmacy and ensure prompt verification to the pharmacy of the terms of reimbursement. In no event shall any person receiving a covered pharmacy benefit from a nonpreferred or nonparticipating provider that has submitted a reimbursement agreement be responsible for amounts that may be charged by the nonpreferred or nonparticipating provider in excess of the copayment and the insurer's reimbursement applicable to all of its preferred or participating pharmacy providers. If a pharmacy has provided notice pursuant to this subsection through an intermediary, the insurer or its intermediary may elect to respond directly to the pharmacy instead of the intermediary. Nothing in this subsection shall (i) require an insurer or its intermediary to contract with or to disclose confidential information to a pharmacy's intermediary or (ii) prohibit an insurer or its intermediary from contracting with or disclosing confidential information to a pharmacy's intermediary.

B. No such insurer or its pharmacy benefits manager shall impose upon any person receiving pharmaceutical benefits furnished under any such policy or contract:

1. Any copayment, fee or condition that is not equally imposed upon all individuals in the same benefit category, class or copayment level, whether or not such benefits are furnished by pharmacists who are nonpreferred or nonparticipating providers;

2. Any monetary penalty that would affect or influence any such person's choice of pharmacy; or

3. Any reduction in allowable reimbursement for pharmacy services related to utilization of pharmacists who are nonpreferred or nonparticipating providers; or

4. Any policy or practice requiring or incentivizing a prescription drug or device to be sent (i) directly to a health care provider for administration to a patient, (ii) to a specific pharmacy selected by such insurer or pharmacy benefits manager, or (iii) to the residence of such person.

C. For purposes of this section, a prohibited condition or penalty shall include, without limitation: (i) denying immediate access to electronic claims filing to a pharmacy that is a nonpreferred or nonparticipating provider and that has complied with subsection D or (ii) requiring a person receiving pharmacy benefits to make payment at point of service, except to the extent such conditions and penalties are similarly imposed on preferred or participating providers.

D. Any pharmacy that wishes to be covered by this section shall, if requested to do so in writing by an insurer or its pharmacy benefits manager, within 30 days of the pharmacy's receipt of the request, execute and deliver to the insurer or its pharmacy benefits manager the direct service agreement or preferred or participating provider agreement that the insurer requires all of its preferred or participating providers of pharmacy benefits to execute. Any pharmacy that fails to timely execute and deliver such agreement shall not be covered by this section with respect to that insurer or its pharmacy benefits manager unless and until the pharmacy executes and delivers the agreement. No pharmacy shall be precluded from obtaining a direct service agreement or participating provider agreement for retail and specialty pharmacy if the pharmacy meets the terms and conditions of participation. Any request by a pharmacy for a direct service agreement or

59 a participating provider agreement shall be acted upon by an insurer or its pharmacy benefits manager within
60 60 days of receipt of the pharmacy's request or any subsequent submission of supplemental information if
61 requested by the insurer or its pharmacy benefits manager.

62 E. ~~The Commission shall have no jurisdiction to adjudicate controversies arising out of~~ Any violation of
63 this section *shall constitute an unfair trade practice for the purposes of Chapter 5 (§ 38.2-500 et seq.) and*
64 *shall be subject to any and all of the injunctive, penalty, and enforcement provisions of Chapter 2 (§ 38.2-200*
65 *et seq.). The Commission shall establish a procedure to accept complaints filed pursuant to this section on or*
66 *before October 1, 2026, and shall resolve any such complaint within a reasonable period of time not to*
67 *exceed six months after the Commission's receipt of such complaint.*

68 F. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of an insurer proposing to issue preferred provider
69 policies or contracts or exclusive provider policies or contracts to select a single mail order pharmacy
70 provider as the exclusive provider of pharmacy services that are delivered to the covered person's address by
71 mail, common carrier, or delivery service. The provisions of this section shall not apply to such contracts. As
72 used in this subsection, "mail order pharmacy provider" means a pharmacy permitted to conduct business in
73 the Commonwealth whose primary business is to dispense a prescription drug or device under a prescriptive
74 drug order and to deliver the drug or device to a patient primarily by mail, common carrier, or delivery
75 service.

76 **§ 38.2-4209.1. Pharmacies; freedom of choice.**

77 A. Notwithstanding any provision of § 38.2-4209, no corporation providing preferred provider
78 subscription contracts or its pharmacy benefits manager, as defined in § 38.2-3465, shall prohibit any person
79 receiving pharmaceutical benefits, including specialty pharmacy benefits, thereunder from selecting, without
80 limitation, the pharmacy, *as defined in § 54.1-3300 and including any physician practice that dispenses or*
81 *administers drugs, medicines, or medicinal chemicals*, of his choice to furnish such benefits. This right of
82 selection extends to and includes pharmacies that are nonpreferred providers and that have previously
83 notified the corporation or its pharmacy benefits manager, by facsimile or otherwise, of their agreement to
84 accept reimbursement for their services at rates applicable to pharmacies that are preferred providers,
85 including any copayment consistently imposed by the corporation, as payment in full. Each corporation or its
86 pharmacy benefits manager shall permit prompt electronic or telephonic transmittal of the reimbursement
87 agreement by the pharmacy and ensure payment verification to the pharmacy of the terms of reimbursement.
88 In no event shall any person receiving a covered pharmacy benefit from a nonpreferred provider that has
89 submitted a reimbursement agreement be responsible for amounts that may be charged by the nonpreferred
90 provider in excess of the copayment and the corporation's reimbursement applicable to all of its preferred
91 pharmacy providers.

92 B. No such corporation or its pharmacy benefits manager shall impose upon any person receiving
93 pharmaceutical benefits furnished under any such contract:

94 1. Any copayment, fee or condition that is not equally imposed upon all individuals in the same benefit
95 category, class or copayment level, whether or not such benefits are furnished by pharmacists who are
96 nonpreferred providers;

97 2. Any monetary penalty that would affect or influence any such person's choice of pharmacy; ~~or~~

98 3. Any reduction in allowable reimbursement for pharmacy services related to utilization of pharmacists
99 who are nonpreferred providers; *or*

100 4. *Any policy or practice requiring or incentivizing a prescription drug or device to be sent (i) directly to*
101 *a health care provider for administration to a patient, (ii) to a specific pharmacy selected by such insurer or*
102 *pharmacy benefits manager, or (iii) to the residence of such person.*

103 C. For purposes of this section, a prohibited condition or penalty shall include, without limitation: (i)
104 denying immediate access to electronic claims filing to a pharmacy that is a nonpreferred provider and that
105 has complied with subsection D or (ii) requiring a person receiving pharmacy benefits to make payment at
106 point of service, except to the extent such conditions and penalties are similarly imposed on preferred
107 providers.

108 D. Any pharmacy that wishes to be covered by this section shall, if requested to do so in writing by a
109 corporation or its pharmacy benefits manager, within 30 days of the pharmacy's receipt of the request,
110 execute and deliver to the corporation or its pharmacy benefits manager the direct service agreement or
111 preferred provider agreement that the corporation requires all of its preferred providers of pharmacy benefits
112 to execute. Any pharmacy that fails to timely execute and deliver such agreement shall not be covered by this
113 section with respect to that corporation or its pharmacy benefits manager unless and until the pharmacy
114 executes and delivers the agreement. No pharmacy shall be precluded from obtaining a direct service
115 agreement or participating provider agreement for any retail and specialty pharmacy if the pharmacy meets
116 the terms and conditions of participation. Any request by a pharmacy for a direct service agreement or a
117 participating provider agreement shall be acted upon by a corporation or its pharmacy benefits manager
118 within 60 days of receipt of the pharmacy's request or any subsequent submission of supplemental
119 information if requested by the corporation or its pharmacy benefits manager.

120 E. ~~The Commission shall have no jurisdiction to adjudicate controversies arising out of~~ Any violation of this

121 section shall constitute an unfair trade practice for the purposes of Chapter 5 (§ 38.2-500 et seq.) and shall
122 be subject to any and all of the injunctive, penalty, and enforcement provisions of Chapter 2 (§ 38.2-200 et
123 seq.). The Commission shall establish a procedure to accept complaints filed pursuant to this section on or
124 before October 1, 2026, and shall resolve any such complaint within a reasonable period of time not to
125 exceed six months after the Commission's receipt of such complaint.

126 F. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of a corporation issuing preferred provider policies or
127 contracts to select a single mail order pharmacy provider as the exclusive provider of pharmacy services that
128 are delivered to the covered person's address by mail, common carrier, or delivery service. The provisions of
129 this section shall not apply to such contracts. As used in this subsection, "mail order pharmacy provider"
130 means a pharmacy permitted to conduct business in the Commonwealth whose primary business is to
131 dispense a prescription drug or device under a prescriptive drug order and to deliver the drug or device to a
132 patient primarily by mail, common carrier, or delivery service.

133 **§ 38.2-4312.1. Pharmacies; freedom of choice.**

134 A. Notwithstanding any other provision in this chapter, no health maintenance organization providing
135 health care plans, or its pharmacy benefits manager, as defined in § 38.2-3465, shall prohibit any person
136 receiving pharmaceutical benefits, including specialty pharmacy benefits, thereunder from selecting, without
137 limitation, the pharmacy, as defined in § 54.1-3300 and including any physician practice that dispenses or
138 administers drugs, medicines, or medicinal chemicals, of his choice to furnish such benefits. This right of
139 selection extends to and includes any pharmacy that is not a participating provider under any such health care
140 plan and that has previously notified the health maintenance organization or its pharmacy benefits manager
141 on its own behalf or through an intermediary, by facsimile or otherwise, of its agreement to accept
142 reimbursement for its services at rates applicable to pharmacies that are participating providers, including any
143 copayment consistently imposed by the plan, as payment in full. Each health maintenance organization or its
144 pharmacy benefits manager shall permit prompt electronic or telephonic transmittal of the reimbursement
145 agreement by the pharmacy and ensure prompt verification to the pharmacy of the terms of reimbursement. In
146 no event shall any person receiving a covered pharmacy benefit from a nonparticipating provider that has
147 submitted a reimbursement agreement be responsible for amounts that may be charged by the
148 nonparticipating provider in excess of the copayment and the health maintenance organization's
149 reimbursement applicable to all of its participating pharmacy providers. If a pharmacy has provided notice
150 pursuant to this subsection through an intermediary, the health maintenance organization or its intermediary
151 may elect to respond directly to the pharmacy instead of the intermediary. Nothing in this subsection shall (i)
152 require a health maintenance organization or its intermediary to contract with or to disclose confidential
153 information to a pharmacy's intermediary or (ii) prohibit a health maintenance organization or its
154 intermediary from contracting with or disclosing confidential information to a pharmacy's intermediary.

155 B. No such health maintenance organization or its pharmacy benefits manager shall impose upon any
156 person receiving pharmaceutical benefits furnished under any such health care plan:

157 1. Any copayment, fee or condition that is not equally imposed upon all individuals in the same benefit
158 category, class or copayment level, whether or not such benefits are furnished by pharmacists who are not
159 participating providers;

160 2. Any monetary penalty that would affect or influence any such person's choice of pharmacy; or

161 3. Any reduction in allowable reimbursement for pharmacy services related to utilization of pharmacists
162 who are not participating providers; or

163 4. Any policy or practice requiring or incentivizing a prescription drug or device to be sent (i) directly to
164 a health care provider for administration to a patient, (ii) to a specific pharmacy selected by such insurer or
165 pharmacy benefits manager, or (iii) to the residence of such person.

166 C. For purposes of this section, a prohibited condition or penalty shall include, without limitation: (i)
167 denying immediate access to electronic claims filing to a pharmacy that is a nonparticipating provider and
168 that has complied with subsection E or (ii) requiring a person receiving pharmacy benefits to make payment
169 at point of service, except to the extent such conditions and penalties are similarly imposed on participating
170 providers.

171 D. The provisions of this section are not applicable to any pharmaceutical benefit covered by a health care
172 plan when those benefits are obtained from a pharmacy wholly owned and operated by, or exclusively
173 operated for, the health maintenance organization providing the health care plan.

174 E. Any pharmacy that wishes to be covered by this section shall, if requested to do so in writing by a
175 health maintenance organization or its pharmacy benefits manager, within 30 days of the pharmacy's receipt
176 of the request, execute and deliver to the health maintenance organization or its pharmacy benefits manager,
177 the direct service agreement or participating provider agreement that the health maintenance organization or
178 its pharmacy benefits manager requires all of its participating providers of pharmacy benefits to execute. Any
179 pharmacy that fails to timely execute and deliver such agreement shall not be covered by this section with
180 respect to that health maintenance organization or its pharmacy benefits manager unless and until the
181 pharmacy executes and delivers the agreement. No pharmacy shall be precluded from obtaining a direct
182 service agreement or participating provider agreement for retail and specialty pharmacy if the pharmacy

183 meets the terms and conditions of participation. Any request by a pharmacy for a direct service agreement or
184 a participating provider agreement shall be acted upon by a health maintenance organization or its pharmacy
185 benefits manager within 60 days of receipt of the pharmacy's request or any subsequent submission of
186 supplemental information if requested by the health maintenance organization or its pharmacy benefits
187 manager.

188 F. ~~The Commission shall have no jurisdiction to adjudicate controversies arising out~~ Any violation of this
189 section *shall constitute an unfair trade practice for the purposes of Chapter 5 (§ 38.2-500 et seq.) and shall*
190 *be subject to any and all of the injunctive, penalty, and enforcement provisions of Chapter 2 (§ 38.2-200 et*
191 *seq.). The Commission shall establish a procedure to accept complaints filed pursuant to this section on or*
192 *before October 1, 2026, and shall resolve any such complaint within a reasonable period of time not to*
193 *exceed six months after the Commission's receipt of such complaint.*

194 G. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of a health maintenance organization providing health
195 care plans to select a single mail order pharmacy provider as the exclusive provider of pharmacy services that
196 are delivered to the covered person's address by mail, common carrier, or delivery service. The provisions of
197 this section shall not apply to such contracts. As used in this subsection, "mail order pharmacy provider"
198 means a pharmacy permitted to conduct business in the Commonwealth whose primary business is to
199 dispense a prescription drug or device under a prescriptive drug order and to deliver the drug or device to a
200 patient primarily by mail, common carrier, or delivery service.