

1 SENATE BILL NO. 308

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health

4 on January 29, 2026)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Pekarsky)

6 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-45.5, relating to Department of*
7 *Health; reduction of drug overdose and drug overdose deaths; report.*8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 32.1-45.5 as follows:**10 *§ 32.1-45.5. Department to be lead agency to reduce rates of drug overdose and drug overdose deaths.*11 *A. The Department shall serve as the lead agency for coordination of activities to reduce rates of drug*
12 *overdose and drug overdose deaths, including opioids, in the Commonwealth. In carrying out its duties, the*
13 *Department shall (i) develop a strategic plan to reduce rates of drug overdose and drug overdose deaths in*
14 *the Commonwealth, (ii) coordinate efforts across state agencies to reduce rates of drug overdose and drug*
15 *overdose deaths in the Commonwealth, and (iii) monitor the implementation and outcome of efforts to reduce*
16 *rates of drug overdose and drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth. The Department shall revise the plan*
17 *developed pursuant to this subsection every five years to reflect changing priorities for the reduction of rates*
18 *of drug overdose and drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth.*19 *B. The Department shall work with the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and*
20 *Public Safety and Homeland Security and such other stakeholders and state agencies as may be appropriate.*21 *C. The Department shall report annually to the General Assembly by November 1 regarding the*
22 *implementation of the plan and outcome of efforts to reduce rates of drug overdose and drug overdose deaths*
23 *in the Commonwealth.*