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SENATE BILL NO. 257
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor
 on February 2, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Favola)

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 38.2-3412.2 and by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-3434.06, relating to health insurance; coverage for certain opioid antagonists.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 38.2-3412.2 and by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-3434.06 as follows:

§ 38.2-3412.2. Coverage for certain opioid antagonists.

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 38.2-3419, subdivision A 1 of § 38.2-6506, or any other provision of law, each insurer proposing to issue individual or group accident and sickness insurance policies providing hospital, medical, and surgical or major medical coverage on an expense-incurred basis; each corporation providing individual or group accident and sickness subscription contracts; and each health maintenance organization providing a health care plan for health care services whose policy, contract, or plan, including any certificate or evidence of coverage issued in connection with such policy, contract, or plan, includes coverage for prescription drugs shall include coverage for (i) at least one opioid antagonist used for overdose reversal dispensed pursuant to an oral, written, or standing order of a prescriber on the lowest cost tier of the insurer's, corporation's, or health maintenance organization's prescription drug formulary and (ii) at least one nonprescription opioid antagonist used for overdose reversal. Cost sharing for any nonprescription opioid antagonist used for overdose reversal shall not exceed the amount of cost sharing for any opioid antagonist used for overdose reversal included on the lowest cost tier of the insurer's, corporation's, or health maintenance organization's prescription drug formulary pursuant to clause (i).

B. No insurer, corporation, or health maintenance organization shall impose any prior authorization or step therapy requirement on coverage of benefits provided pursuant to this section.

C. The provisions of this section shall not apply to short-term travel, accident-only, limited or specified disease policies, or contracts designed for issuance to persons eligible for coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, known as Medicare, or any other similar coverage under state or federal governmental plans or to short-term nonrenewable policies of not more than six months' duration.

§ 38.2-4319. Statutory construction and relationship to other laws.

A. No provisions of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-136, 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-209 through 38.2-213, 38.2-216, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-229, 38.2-232, 38.2-305, 38.2-316, 38.2-316.1, 38.2-316.2, 38.2-322, 38.2-325, 38.2-326, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through 38.2-629, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1016.1 through 38.2-1023, 38.2-1057, and 38.2-1306.1, Article 2 (§ 38.2-1306.2 et seq.), § 38.2-1315.1, and Articles 3.1 (§ 38.2-1316.1 et seq.), 4 (§ 38.2-1317 et seq.), 5 (§ 38.2-1322 et seq.), 5.1 (§ 38.2-1334.3 et seq.), and 5.2 (§ 38.2-1334.11 et seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.), 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.), and 4 (§ 38.2-1446 et seq.) of Chapter 14, Chapter 15 (§ 38.2-1500 et seq.), Chapter 17 (§ 38.2-1700 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836, 38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3405.1, 38.2-3406.1, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9 through 38.2-3407.20, 38.2-3411, 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3411.3, 38.2-3411.4, 38.2-3412.1, 38.2-3412.2, 38.2-3414.1, 38.2-3418.1 through 38.2-3418.19, 38.2-3418.21, 38.2-3418.22, 38.2-3419.1, and 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3454, Articles 8 (§ 38.2-3461 et seq.) and 9 (§ 38.2-3465 et seq.) of Chapter 34, § 38.2-3500, subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of § 38.2-3504, §§ 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1 through 38.2-3523.4, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3540.1, 38.2-3540.2, 38.2-3541.2, 38.2-3542, and 38.2-3543.2, Article 5 (§ 38.2-3551 et seq.) of Chapter 35, Chapter 35.1 (§ 38.2-3556 et seq.), § 38.2-3610, Chapter 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.), Chapter 55 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.), Chapter 65 (§ 38.2-6500 et seq.), and Chapter 66 (§ 38.2-6600 et seq.) shall be applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under this chapter. This chapter shall not apply to an insurer or health services plan licensed and regulated in conformance with the insurance laws or Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) except with respect to the activities of its health maintenance organization.

B. For plans administered by the Department of Medical Assistance Services that provide benefits pursuant to Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act, as amended, no provisions of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-136, 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-209 through 38.2-213, 38.2-216, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-229, 38.2-232, 38.2-322, 38.2-325, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, and 38.2-600 through 38.2-629,

60 Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.), §§ 38.2-1016.1 through 38.2-1023, 38.2-1057, and 38.2-1306.1, Article 2
61 (§ 38.2-1306.2 et seq.), § 38.2-1315.1, Articles 3.1 (§ 38.2-1316.1 et seq.), 4 (§ 38.2-1317 et seq.), 5
62 (§ 38.2-1322 et seq.), 5.1 (§ 38.2-1334.3 et seq.), and 5.2 (§ 38.2-1334.11 et seq.) of Chapter 13, Articles 1
63 (§ 38.2-1400 et seq.), 2 (§ 38.2-1412 et seq.), and 4 (§ 38.2-1446 et seq.) of Chapter 14, §§ 38.2-3401,
64 38.2-3405, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.5, 38.2-3407.6, 38.2-3407.6:1, 38.2-3407.9, 38.2-3407.9:01, and
65 38.2-3407.9:02, subsection E of § 38.2-3407.10, §§ 38.2-3407.10:1, 38.2-3407.11, 38.2-3407.11:3,
66 38.2-3407.13, 38.2-3407.13:1, 38.2-3407.14, 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3418.1, 38.2-3418.2, 38.2-3418.16,
67 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3430.1 through 38.2-3437, and 38.2-3500, subdivision 13 of § 38.2-3503, subdivision 8 of
68 § 38.2-3504, §§ 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3514.2, 38.2-3522.1 through 38.2-3523.4, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3540.1,
69 38.2-3540.2, 38.2-3541.2, 38.2-3542, and 38.2-3543.2, Chapter 52 (§ 38.2-5200 et seq.), Chapter 55
70 (§ 38.2-5500 et seq.), Chapter 58 (§ 38.2-5800 et seq.), Chapter 65 (§ 38.2-6500 et seq.), and Chapter 66
71 (§ 38.2-6600 et seq.) shall be applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under this
72 chapter. This chapter shall not apply to an insurer or health services plan licensed and regulated in
73 conformance with the insurance laws or Chapter 42 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) except with respect to the activities
74 of its health maintenance organization.

75 C. Solicitation of enrollees by a licensed health maintenance organization or by its representatives shall
76 not be construed to violate any provisions of law relating to solicitation or advertising by health professionals.

77 D. A licensed health maintenance organization shall not be deemed to be engaged in the unlawful practice
78 of medicine. All health care providers associated with a health maintenance organization shall be subject to
79 all provisions of law.

80 E. Notwithstanding the definition of an eligible employee as set forth in § 38.2-3431, a health
81 maintenance organization providing health care plans pursuant to § 38.2-3431 shall not be required to offer
82 coverage to or accept applications from an employee who does not reside within the health maintenance
83 organization's service area.

84 F. For purposes of applying this section, "insurer" when used in a section cited in subsections A and B
85 shall be construed to mean and include "health maintenance organizations" unless the section cited clearly
86 applies to health maintenance organizations without such construction.

87 **§ 54.1-3434.06. Required notice for certain pharmacies.**

88 *Every pharmacy that offers for sale one or more nonprescription opioid antagonists used for overdose*
89 *reversal shall post in a conspicuous location a notice stating that health insurance coverage may be*
90 *available for such nonprescription opioid antagonist, including instructions for how individuals may utilize*
91 *such coverage for the purchase of such nonprescription opioid antagonist.*

92 **2. That the provisions of this act shall apply to any individual or group accident and sickness insurance**
93 **policy, individual or group accident and sickness subscription contract, or health care plan for health**
94 **care services delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed in the Commonwealth on and after January 1,**
95 **2027.**