

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 18.2-251.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to manufacturing, selling, giving,*
3 *distributing, or possessing medetomidine; penalties.*

4 [H 1103]
5 Approved

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

7 **1. That § 18.2-251.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 **§ 18.2-251.5. Manufacturing, selling, giving, distributing, or possessing medetomidine or xylazine;**
9 **penalties.**

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

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

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

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

ENROLLED

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