

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

## CHAPTER 447

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

[H 1103]

Approved April 8, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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