

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 2.2 a section*
 3 *numbered 2.2-214.1 and by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 32.1 a section numbered*
 4 *32.1-23.1, relating to the Healthy Lives Prescription Fund.*

5 [H 2225]

6 Approved

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

8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 2.2 a section**
 9 **numbered 2.2-214.1 and by adding in Article 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 32.1 a section numbered**
 10 **32.1-23.1 as follows:**

11 *§ 2.2-214.1. Healthy Lives Prescription Fund; nonreverting; purposes; report.*

12 *A. There is hereby created in the Department of the Treasury a special nonreverting fund that shall*
 13 *be known as the Healthy Lives Prescription Fund.*

14 *B. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. The Fund shall consist of such*
 15 *moneys appropriated by the General Assembly and any funds available from the federal government,*
 16 *donations, grants, and in-kind contributions made to the Fund for the purposes stated herein. Interest*
 17 *earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in*
 18 *the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund*
 19 *but shall remain in the Fund.*

20 *C. Moneys in the Fund shall be available to develop and implement programs that will enhance*
 21 *current prescription drug programs for citizens of the Commonwealth who are without insurance or*
 22 *ability to pay for prescription drugs and to develop innovative programs to make such prescription*
 23 *drugs more available.*

24 *D. The Secretary shall provide an annual report on the status of the Fund and efforts to meet the*
 25 *goals of the Fund.*

26 *§ 32.1-23.1. Alternative delivery of certain information.*

27 *A. The Commissioner shall create links from the Virginia Department of Health's website to the*
 28 *Virginia Department for the Aging's website and its affiliated sites pertaining to pharmaceutical*
 29 *assistance programs and pharmaceutical discount purchasing cards. The Commissioner of the*
 30 *Department for the Aging shall cooperate with the Commissioner of Health by ensuring that such*
 31 *information is available on the Department for the Aging's website.*

32 *B. The Commissioner shall ensure that all clinical sites administered by local health departments are*
 33 *provided with adequate information concerning the services of the Virginia Department for the Aging,*
 34 *including, but not limited to, its toll-free telephone number and its website information on*
 35 *pharmaceutical assistance programs and pharmaceutical discount purchasing cards.*

36 *C. The Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of the Department for the Aging shall*
 37 *coordinate the dissemination of information to the public regarding any pharmaceutical discount*
 38 *purchasing card programs while maintaining a neutral posture regarding such programs.*

39 *D. The Commissioner shall establish a toll-free telephone number, to be administered by the Virginia*
 40 *Department of Health, which shall provide recorded information concerning services available from the*
 41 *Department for the Aging, the Virginia Area Agencies on Aging, and other appropriate organizations for*
 42 *senior citizens.*

43 **2. That the Joint Commission on Health Care or any successor in interest thereof shall prepare a**
 44 **plan to establish the Healthy Lives Prescription Assistance Program to provide prescription drug**
 45 **benefits for low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities, which shall include**
 46 **consideration of the resources of both the public and private sectors. The Joint Commission on**
 47 **Health Care shall prepare the plan in cooperation with the Secretary of Health and Human**
 48 **Resources, the Virginia Health Care Foundation, pharmaceutical manufacturers, health care**
 49 **provider organizations, advocacy groups, and other interested parties. In preparing the plan, the**
 50 **Joint Commission on Health Care shall review and incorporate, to the maximum extent possible,**
 51 **the conclusions of the Joint Commission on Prescription Drug Assistance, established pursuant to**
 52 **HJR 810 of 2001 and continued pursuant to HJR 90 of 2002. The plan shall coordinate state,**
 53 **federal and private programs providing such assistance, including any programs the federal**
 54 **government may implement. The Joint Commission on Health Care shall report its recommended**
 55 **plan to the Governor, the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate**
 56 **Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions, and the Senate**

57 Committee on Education and Health by October 15, 2003.