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**SENATE BILL NO. 618**

Offered January 15, 2014

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 38.2-3451 of the Code of Virginia, relating to health insurance; essential health benefits; abortion coverage.*

Patrons—Locke, McEachin, Favola and Ebbin

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

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

**1. That § 38.2-3451 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 38.2-3451. Essential health benefits.**

Notwithstanding any provision of § 38.2-3431 or any other section of this title to the contrary, a health carrier offering a health benefit plan providing individual or small group health insurance coverage shall provide that such coverage includes the essential health benefits as required by § 1302(a) of the PPACA. The essential health benefits package may also include associated cost-sharing requirements or limitations. ~~No qualified health insurance plan that is sold or offered for sale through an exchange established or operating in the Commonwealth shall provide coverage for abortions, regardless of whether such coverage is provided through the plan or is offered as a separate optional rider thereto, provided that such limitation shall not apply to an abortion performed (i) when the life of the mother is endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, or (ii) when the pregnancy is the result of an alleged act of rape or incest.~~

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