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HOUSE BILL NO. 2136

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 14, 2015

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2522.1 of the Code of Virginia, as it shall become effective, relating to the Prescription Monitoring Program; opiate prescriptions.

Patron—Taylor

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2522.1 of the Code of Virginia, as it shall become effective, is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2522.1. (Effective July 1, 2015) Requirements of prescribers.

A. Any prescriber who is licensed in the Commonwealth to treat human patients and is authorized pursuant to §§ 54.1-3303 and 54.1-3408 to issue a prescription for a covered substance shall be registered with the Prescription Monitoring Program by the Department of Health Professions upon filing an application for licensure or renewal of licensure, if the prescriber is not already registered.

B. Prescribers registered with the Prescription Monitoring Program shall, at the time of initiating a new course of treatment to a human patient that includes the prescribing of benzodiazepine or an opiate anticipated to last more than ~~90~~ 30 consecutive days and for which a treatment agreement is entered into *and at least once annually if such prescription remains part of the patient's treatment*, request information from the Director for the purpose of determining what, if any, other covered substances are currently prescribed to the patient. In addition, any prescriber who holds a special identification number from the Drug Enforcement Administration authorizing the prescribing of controlled substances approved for use in opioid addiction therapy shall, prior to or as a part of execution of a treatment agreement with the patient, request information from the Director for the purpose of determining what, if any, other covered substances the patient is currently being prescribed. Nothing in this section shall prohibit prescribers from making additional periodic requests for information from the Director as may be required by routine prescribing practices.

C. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources may identify and publish a list of benzodiazepines or opiates that have a low potential for abuse by human patients. Prescribers who prescribe such identified benzodiazepines or opiates shall not be required to meet the provisions of subsection B. In addition, a prescriber shall not be required to meet the provisions of subsection B if the course of treatment arises from pain management relating to dialysis or cancer treatments.

INTRODUCED

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