

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 27 of Title 54.1 a section*  
3 *numbered 54.1-2708.4 and by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 29 of Title 54.1 a section numbered*  
4 *54.1-2928.2, relating to Board of Dentistry and Medicine; regulations for the prescribing of opioids*  
5 *and buprenorphine.*

6 [S 1180]

7 Approved

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

9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 27 of Title 54.1 a**  
10 **section numbered 54.1-2708.4 and by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 29 of Title 54.1 a section**  
11 **numbered 54.1-2928.2 as follows:**

12 **§ 54.1-2708.4. Board to adopt regulations related to prescribing of opioids.**13 *The Board shall adopt regulations for the prescribing of opioids, which shall include guidelines for:*

14 *1. The treatment of acute pain, which shall include (i) requirements for an appropriate patient*  
15 *history and evaluation, (ii) limitations on dosages or day supply of drugs prescribed, (iii) requirements*  
16 *for appropriate documentation in the patient's health record, and (iv) a requirement that the prescriber*  
17 *request and review information contained in the Prescription Monitoring Program in accordance with*  
18 *§ 54.1-2522.1;*

19 *2. The treatment of chronic pain, which shall include, in addition to the requirements for treatment*  
20 *of acute pain set forth in subdivision 1, requirements for (i) development of a treatment plan for the*  
21 *patient, (ii) an agreement for treatment signed by the provider and the patient that includes permission*  
22 *to obtain urine drug screens, and (iii) periodic review of the treatment provided at specific intervals to*  
23 *determine the continued appropriateness of such treatment; and*

24 *3. Referral of patients to whom opioids are prescribed for substance abuse counseling or treatment,*  
25 *as appropriate.*

26 **§ 54.1-2928.2. Board to adopt regulations related to prescribing of opioids and buprenorphine.**

27 *The Board shall adopt regulations for the prescribing of opioids and products containing*  
28 *buprenorphine. Such regulations shall include guidelines for:*

29 *1. The treatment of acute pain, which shall include (i) requirements for an appropriate patient*  
30 *history and evaluation, (ii) limitations on dosages or day supply of drugs prescribed, (iii) requirements*  
31 *for appropriate documentation in the patient's health record, and (iv) a requirement that the prescriber*  
32 *request and review information contained in the Prescription Monitoring Program in accordance with*  
33 *§ 54.1-2522.1;*

34 *2. The treatment of chronic pain, which shall include, in addition to the requirements for treatment*  
35 *of acute pain set forth in subdivision 1, requirements for (i) development of a treatment plan for the*  
36 *patient, (ii) an agreement for treatment signed by the provider and the patient that includes permission*  
37 *to obtain urine drug screens, and (iii) periodic review of the treatment provided at specific intervals to*  
38 *determine the continued appropriateness of such treatment; and*

39 *3. The use of buprenorphine in the treatment of addiction, including a requirement for referral to or*  
40 *consultation with a provider of substance abuse counseling in conjunction with treatment of opioid*  
41 *dependency with products containing buprenorphine.*

42 **2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.**

43 **3. That the Prescription Monitoring Program at the Department of Health Professions shall**  
44 **annually provide a report to the Joint Commission on Health Care and the Chairmen of the**  
45 **House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education**  
46 **and Health on the prescribing of opioids and benzodiazepines in the Commonwealth that includes**  
47 **data on reporting of unusual patterns of prescribing or dispensing of a covered substance by an**  
48 **individual prescriber or dispenser or on potential misuse of a covered substance by a recipient,**  
49 **pursuant to §54.1-2523.1.**