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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1477

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 8, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-325 and 63.2-503 of the Code of Virginia, relating to application for public assistance; eligibility; review of records.

Patron—LaRock

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That §§ 32.1-325 and 63.2-503 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 32.1-325. Board to submit plan for medical assistance services to U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to federal law; administration of plan; contracts with health care providers.**

A. The Board, subject to the approval of the Governor, is authorized to prepare, amend from time to time, and submit to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services a state plan for medical assistance services pursuant to Title XIX of the United States Social Security Act and any amendments thereto. The Board shall include in such plan:

1. A provision for payment of medical assistance on behalf of individuals, up to the age of 21, placed in foster homes or private institutions by private, nonprofit agencies licensed as child-placing agencies by the Department of Social Services or placed through state and local subsidized adoptions to the extent permitted under federal statute;

2. A provision for determining eligibility for benefits for medically needy individuals which disregards from countable resources an amount not in excess of \$3,500 for the individual and an amount not in excess of \$3,500 for his spouse when such resources have been set aside to meet the burial expenses of the individual or his spouse. The amount disregarded shall be reduced by (i) the face value of life insurance on the life of an individual owned by the individual or his spouse if the cash surrender value of such policies has been excluded from countable resources and (ii) the amount of any other revocable or irrevocable trust, contract, or other arrangement specifically designated for the purpose of meeting the individual's or his spouse's burial expenses;

3. A requirement that, in determining eligibility, a home shall be disregarded. For those medically needy persons whose eligibility for medical assistance is required by federal law to be dependent on the budget methodology for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, a home means the house and lot used as the principal residence and all contiguous property. For all other persons, a home shall mean the house and lot used as the principal residence, as well as all contiguous property, as long as the value of the land, exclusive of the lot occupied by the house, does not exceed \$5,000. In any case in which the definition of home as provided here is more restrictive than that provided in the state plan for medical assistance services in Virginia as it was in effect on January 1, 1972, then a home means the house and lot used as the principal residence and all contiguous property essential to the operation of the home regardless of value;

4. A provision for payment of medical assistance on behalf of individuals up to the age of 21, who are Medicaid eligible, for medically necessary stays in acute care facilities in excess of 21 days per admission;

5. A provision for deducting from an institutionalized recipient's income an amount for the maintenance of the individual's spouse at home;

6. A provision for payment of medical assistance on behalf of pregnant women which provides for payment for inpatient postpartum treatment in accordance with the medical criteria outlined in the most current version of or an official update to the "Guidelines for Perinatal Care" prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or the "Standards for Obstetric-Gynecologic Services" prepared by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Payment shall be made for any postpartum home visit or visits for the mothers and the children which are within the time periods recommended by the attending physicians in accordance with and as indicated by such Guidelines or Standards. For the purposes of this subdivision, such Guidelines or Standards shall include any changes thereto within six months of the publication of such Guidelines or Standards or any official amendment thereto;

7. A provision for the payment for family planning services on behalf of women who were Medicaid-eligible for prenatal care and delivery as provided in this section at the time of delivery. Such family planning services shall begin with delivery and continue for a period of 24 months, if the woman

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59 continues to meet the financial eligibility requirements for a pregnant woman under Medicaid. For the  
60 purposes of this section, family planning services shall not cover payment for abortion services and no  
61 funds shall be used to perform, assist, encourage or make direct referrals for abortions;

62 8. A provision for payment of medical assistance for high-dose chemotherapy and bone marrow  
63 transplants on behalf of individuals over the age of 21 who have been diagnosed with lymphoma, breast  
64 cancer, myeloma, or leukemia and have been determined by the treating health care provider to have a  
65 performance status sufficient to proceed with such high-dose chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant.  
66 Appeals of these cases shall be handled in accordance with the Department's expedited appeals process;

67 9. A provision identifying entities approved by the Board to receive applications and to determine  
68 eligibility for medical assistance, which shall include a requirement that such entities (i) obtain accurate  
69 contact information, including the best available address and telephone number, from each applicant for  
70 medical assistance, to the extent required by federal law and regulations; ~~and~~; (ii) *review the records*  
71 *and information described in subsection B of § 63.2-503*; and (iii) provide each applicant for medical  
72 assistance with information about advance directives pursuant to Article 8 (§ 54.1-2981 et seq.) of  
73 Chapter 29 of Title 54.1, including information about the purpose and benefits of advance directives and  
74 how the applicant may make an advance directive;

75 10. A provision for breast reconstructive surgery following the medically necessary removal of a  
76 breast for any medical reason. Breast reductions shall be covered, if prior authorization has been  
77 obtained, for all medically necessary indications. Such procedures shall be considered noncosmetic;

78 11. A provision for payment of medical assistance for annual pap smears;

79 12. A provision for payment of medical assistance services for prostheses following the medically  
80 necessary complete or partial removal of a breast for any medical reason;

81 13. A provision for payment of medical assistance which provides for payment for 48 hours of  
82 inpatient treatment for a patient following a radical or modified radical mastectomy and 24 hours of  
83 inpatient care following a total mastectomy or a partial mastectomy with lymph node dissection for  
84 treatment of disease or trauma of the breast. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as requiring  
85 the provision of inpatient coverage where the attending physician in consultation with the patient  
86 determines that a shorter period of hospital stay is appropriate;

87 14. A requirement that certificates of medical necessity for durable medical equipment and any  
88 supporting verifiable documentation shall be signed, dated, and returned by the physician, physician  
89 assistant, or nurse practitioner and in the durable medical equipment provider's possession within 60  
90 days from the time the ordered durable medical equipment and supplies are first furnished by the  
91 durable medical equipment provider;

92 15. A provision for payment of medical assistance to (i) persons age 50 and over and (ii) persons  
93 age 40 and over who are at high risk for prostate cancer, according to the most recent published  
94 guidelines of the American Cancer Society, for one PSA test in a 12-month period and digital rectal  
95 examinations, all in accordance with American Cancer Society guidelines. For the purpose of this  
96 subdivision, "PSA testing" means the analysis of a blood sample to determine the level of prostate  
97 specific antigen;

98 16. A provision for payment of medical assistance for low-dose screening mammograms for  
99 determining the presence of occult breast cancer. Such coverage shall make available one screening  
100 mammogram to persons age 35 through 39, one such mammogram biennially to persons age 40 through  
101 49, and one such mammogram annually to persons age 50 and over. The term "mammogram" means an  
102 X-ray examination of the breast using equipment dedicated specifically for mammography, including but  
103 not limited to the X-ray tube, filter, compression device, screens, film and cassettes, with an average  
104 radiation exposure of less than one rad mid-breast, two views of each breast;

105 17. A provision, when in compliance with federal law and regulation and approved by the Centers  
106 for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), for payment of medical assistance services delivered to  
107 Medicaid-eligible students when such services qualify for reimbursement by the Virginia Medicaid  
108 program and may be provided by school divisions;

109 18. A provision for payment of medical assistance services for liver, heart and lung transplantation  
110 procedures for individuals over the age of 21 years when (i) there is no effective alternative medical or  
111 surgical therapy available with outcomes that are at least comparable; (ii) the transplant procedure and  
112 application of the procedure in treatment of the specific condition have been clearly demonstrated to be  
113 medically effective and not experimental or investigational; (iii) prior authorization by the Department of  
114 Medical Assistance Services has been obtained; (iv) the patient selection criteria of the specific  
115 transplant center where the surgery is proposed to be performed have been used by the transplant team  
116 or program to determine the appropriateness of the patient for the procedure; (v) current medical therapy  
117 has failed and the patient has failed to respond to appropriate therapeutic management; (vi) the patient is  
118 not in an irreversible terminal state; and (vii) the transplant is likely to prolong the patient's life and  
119 restore a range of physical and social functioning in the activities of daily living;

120 19. A provision for payment of medical assistance for colorectal cancer screening, specifically

screening with an annual fecal occult blood test, flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy, or in appropriate circumstances radiologic imaging, in accordance with the most recently published recommendations established by the American College of Gastroenterology, in consultation with the American Cancer Society, for the ages, family histories, and frequencies referenced in such recommendations;

20. A provision for payment of medical assistance for custom ocular prostheses;

21. A provision for payment for medical assistance for infant hearing screenings and all necessary audiological examinations provided pursuant to § 32.1-64.1 using any technology approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, and as recommended by the national Joint Committee on Infant Hearing in its most current position statement addressing early hearing detection and intervention programs. Such provision shall include payment for medical assistance for follow-up audiological examinations as recommended by a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or audiologist and performed by a licensed audiologist to confirm the existence or absence of hearing loss;

22. A provision for payment of medical assistance, pursuant to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-354), for certain women with breast or cervical cancer when such women (i) have been screened for breast or cervical cancer under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program established under Title XV of the Public Health Service Act; (ii) need treatment for breast or cervical cancer, including treatment for a precancerous condition of the breast or cervix; (iii) are not otherwise covered under creditable coverage, as defined in § 2701 (c) of the Public Health Service Act; (iv) are not otherwise eligible for medical assistance services under any mandatory categorically needy eligibility group; and (v) have not attained age 65. This provision shall include an expedited eligibility determination for such women;

23. A provision for the coordinated administration, including outreach, enrollment, re-enrollment and services delivery, of medical assistance services provided to medically indigent children pursuant to this chapter, which shall be called Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) Plus and the FAMIS Plan program in § 32.1-351. A single application form shall be used to determine eligibility for both programs;

24. A provision, when authorized by and in compliance with federal law, to establish a public-private long-term care partnership program between the Commonwealth of Virginia and private insurance companies that shall be established through the filing of an amendment to the state plan for medical assistance services by the Department of Medical Assistance Services. The purpose of the program shall be to reduce Medicaid costs for long-term care by delaying or eliminating dependence on Medicaid for such services through encouraging the purchase of private long-term care insurance policies that have been designated as qualified state long-term care insurance partnerships and may be used as the first source of benefits for the participant's long-term care. Components of the program, including the treatment of assets for Medicaid eligibility and estate recovery, shall be structured in accordance with federal law and applicable federal guidelines;

25. A provision for the payment of medical assistance for otherwise eligible pregnant women during the first five years of lawful residence in the United States, pursuant to § 214 of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-3); and

26. A provision for the payment of medical assistance for medically necessary health care services provided through telemedicine services.

B. In preparing the plan, the Board shall:

1. Work cooperatively with the State Board of Health to ensure that quality patient care is provided and that the health, safety, security, rights and welfare of patients are ensured.

2. Initiate such cost containment or other measures as are set forth in the appropriation act.

3. Make, adopt, promulgate and enforce such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

4. Examine, before acting on a regulation to be published in the Virginia Register of Regulations pursuant to § 2.2-4007.05, the potential fiscal impact of such regulation on local boards of social services. For regulations with potential fiscal impact, the Board shall share copies of the fiscal impact analysis with local boards of social services prior to submission to the Registrar. The fiscal impact analysis shall include the projected costs/savings to the local boards of social services to implement or comply with such regulation and, where applicable, sources of potential funds to implement or comply with such regulation.

5. Incorporate sanctions and remedies for certified nursing facilities established by state law, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 488.400 et seq. "Enforcement of Compliance for Long-Term Care Facilities With Deficiencies."

6. On and after July 1, 2002, require that a prescription benefit card, health insurance benefit card, or other technology that complies with the requirements set forth in § 38.2-3407.4:2 be issued to each

182 recipient of medical assistance services, and shall upon any changes in the required data elements set  
183 forth in subsection A of § 38.2-3407.4:2, either reissue the card or provide recipients such corrective  
184 information as may be required to electronically process a prescription claim.

185 C. In order to enable the Commonwealth to continue to receive federal grants or reimbursement for  
186 medical assistance or related services, the Board, subject to the approval of the Governor, may adopt,  
187 regardless of any other provision of this chapter, such amendments to the state plan for medical  
188 assistance services as may be necessary to conform such plan with amendments to the United States  
189 Social Security Act or other relevant federal law and their implementing regulations or constructions of  
190 these laws and regulations by courts of competent jurisdiction or the United States Secretary of Health  
191 and Human Services.

192 In the event conforming amendments to the state plan for medical assistance services are adopted, the  
193 Board shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Article 2 (§ 2.2-4006 et seq.) of Chapter  
194 40 of Title 2.2. However, the Board shall, pursuant to the requirements of § 2.2-4002, (i) notify the  
195 Registrar of Regulations that such amendment is necessary to meet the requirements of federal law or  
196 regulations or because of the order of any state or federal court, or (ii) certify to the Governor that the  
197 regulations are necessitated by an emergency situation. Any such amendments that are in conflict with  
198 the Code of Virginia shall only remain in effect until July 1 following adjournment of the next regular  
199 session of the General Assembly unless enacted into law.

200 D. The Director of Medical Assistance Services is authorized to:

201 1. Administer such state plan and receive and expend federal funds therefor in accordance with  
202 applicable federal and state laws and regulations; and enter into all contracts necessary or incidental to  
203 the performance of the Department's duties and the execution of its powers as provided by law.

204 2. Enter into agreements and contracts with medical care facilities, physicians, dentists and other  
205 health care providers where necessary to carry out the provisions of such state plan. Any such agreement  
206 or contract shall terminate upon conviction of the provider of a felony. In the event such conviction is  
207 reversed upon appeal, the provider may apply to the Director of Medical Assistance Services for a new  
208 agreement or contract. Such provider may also apply to the Director for reconsideration of the  
209 agreement or contract termination if the conviction is not appealed, or if it is not reversed upon appeal.

210 3. Refuse to enter into or renew an agreement or contract, or elect to terminate an existing agreement  
211 or contract, with any provider who has been convicted of or otherwise pled guilty to a felony, or  
212 pursuant to Subparts A, B, and C of 42 C.F.R. Part 1002, and upon notice of such action to the provider  
213 as required by 42 C.F.R. § 1002.212.

214 4. Refuse to enter into or renew an agreement or contract, or elect to terminate an existing agreement  
215 or contract, with a provider who is or has been a principal in a professional or other corporation when  
216 such corporation has been convicted of or otherwise pled guilty to any violation of § 32.1-314, 32.1-315,  
217 32.1-316, or 32.1-317, or any other felony or has been excluded from participation in any federal  
218 program pursuant to 42 C.F.R. Part 1002.

219 5. Terminate or suspend a provider agreement with a home care organization pursuant to subsection  
220 E of § 32.1-162.13.

221 6. [Expired.]

222 For the purposes of this subsection, "provider" may refer to an individual or an entity.

223 E. In any case in which a Medicaid agreement or contract is terminated or denied to a provider  
224 pursuant to subsection D, the provider shall be entitled to appeal the decision pursuant to 42 C.F.R.  
225 § 1002.213 and to a post-determination or post-denial hearing in accordance with the Administrative  
226 Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.). All such requests shall be in writing and be received within 15 days of  
227 the date of receipt of the notice.

228 The Director may consider aggravating and mitigating factors including the nature and extent of any  
229 adverse impact the agreement or contract denial or termination may have on the medical care provided  
230 to Virginia Medicaid recipients. In cases in which an agreement or contract is terminated pursuant to  
231 subsection D, the Director may determine the period of exclusion and may consider aggravating and  
232 mitigating factors to lengthen or shorten the period of exclusion, and may reinstate the provider pursuant  
233 to 42 C.F.R. § 1002.215.

234 F. When the services provided for by such plan are services which a marriage and family therapist,  
235 clinical psychologist, clinical social worker, professional counselor, or clinical nurse specialist is licensed  
236 to render in Virginia, the Director shall contract with any duly licensed marriage and family therapist,  
237 duly licensed clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, licensed professional counselor or  
238 licensed clinical nurse specialist who makes application to be a provider of such services, and thereafter  
239 shall pay for covered services as provided in the state plan. The Board shall promulgate regulations  
240 which reimburse licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical psychologists, licensed clinical  
241 social workers, licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical nurse specialists at rates based  
242 upon reasonable criteria, including the professional credentials required for licensure.

243 G. The Board shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health

and Human Services such amendments to the state plan for medical assistance services as may be permitted by federal law to establish a program of family assistance whereby children over the age of 18 years shall make reasonable contributions, as determined by regulations of the Board, toward the cost of providing medical assistance under the plan to their parents.

H. The Department of Medical Assistance Services shall:

1. Include in its provider networks and all of its health maintenance organization contracts a provision for the payment of medical assistance on behalf of individuals up to the age of 21 who have special needs and who are Medicaid eligible, including individuals who have been victims of child abuse and neglect, for medically necessary assessment and treatment services, when such services are delivered by a provider which specializes solely in the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse and neglect, or a provider with comparable expertise, as determined by the Director.

2. Amend the Medallion II waiver and its implementing regulations to develop and implement an exception, with procedural requirements, to mandatory enrollment for certain children between birth and age three certified by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as eligible for services pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1471 et seq.).

3. Utilize, to the extent practicable, electronic funds transfer technology for reimbursement to contractors and enrolled providers for the provision of health care services under Medicaid and the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan established under § 32.1-351.

I. The Director is authorized to negotiate and enter into agreements for services rendered to eligible recipients with special needs. The Board shall promulgate regulations regarding these special needs patients, to include persons with AIDS, ventilator-dependent patients, and other recipients with special needs as defined by the Board.

J. Except as provided in subdivision A 1 of § 2.2-4345, the provisions of the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ 2.2-4300 et seq.) shall not apply to the activities of the Director authorized by subsection I of this section. Agreements made pursuant to this subsection shall comply with federal law and regulation.

**§ 63.2-503. Procedure upon receipt of application.**

A. Upon receipt of the application for public assistance, the local director or Commissioner shall make or cause to be made promptly an investigation to determine the completeness and correctness of the statements contained in the application and to ascertain the facts supporting the application and such other information as the local department or the Commissioner may require to determine whether an applicant is eligible for public assistance.

B. In conducting the investigation required by subsection A, and only when consistent with federal law and regulations, the local director shall verify each applicant's identity, income, assets, and any other information necessary for the purpose of determining eligibility for public assistance, eliminating the duplication of assistance, and deterring fraud. *In conducting such investigation, the local director shall:*

1. *Request and review the lists of deceased persons maintained by the Social Security Administration to determine whether the name of the applicant or any child on whose behalf assistance is being requested appears on such lists;*

2. *Request and review the applicant's correctional status information, as defined in § 9.1-101, from the Central Criminal Records Exchange and determine the correctional status of the applicant;*

3. *Request and review information from the Virginia Employment Commission to determine the applicant's employment status; and*

4. *Request and review information regarding earned income of the applicant from the Social Security Administration and information regarding unearned income of the applicant from the Internal Revenue Service to determine the applicant's income.*

C. In cases in which information obtained as a result of the investigation required by subsection A is inconsistent with information provided by the applicant at the time of application or otherwise suggests that the applicant may not be eligible for public assistance, the local director shall notify the applicant in writing and provide opportunity for the applicant to explain the discrepancy. If the applicant fails to respond within 10 days of the date of such notice, the local director shall deny the application for public assistance. If the applicant responds within 10 days of such notice, upon receipt of such response, the local director shall conduct such further investigation as may be necessary to verify the applicant's response and resolve the discrepancy or other issue arising from comparing the information provided by the applicant with information obtained as a result of the investigation required by subsection A. If the local director determines that the information obtained as a result of the investigation required by subsection A is accurate, and that as a result the applicant is ineligible for public assistance, the local director shall so notify the applicant and public assistance shall be denied. In any case in which the local director believes that the applicant has obtained or attempted to obtain public assistance by means of willful false statements or representations, impersonation, or other fraudulent devices, the local director shall initiate a fraud investigation pursuant to § 63.2-526.

305 D. The Department shall establish a means to obtain and provide the data necessary for the local  
306 departments to conduct the search required by subsection B in an automated electronic format. In doing  
307 so, the Department may use a third-party contractor. The local department shall immediately take action  
308 upon obtaining information indicating a change in a recipient's circumstances that could warrant  
309 reconsideration, cancellation, or changes in the amount of public assistance paid to the recipient in  
310 accordance with the provisions of § 63.2-514.

311 E. The Department shall report to the General Assembly no later than December 1 of each year the  
312 following:

313 1. Which specific types or sources of information local directors used, either directly or through a  
314 third-party contractor, during the past year for the purpose of verifying applicants' identity, income,  
315 assets, and other information pursuant to subsection B; and

316 2. Any types or sources of information that the Department plans to make available to local directors  
317 to use in the future to verify applicants' identity, income, assets, and other information and the  
318 approximate date on which the local directors plan to begin using those types or sources of information.

319 F. The Department shall include in its report required pursuant to subsection E the number of  
320 applications for public assistance received in accordance with this section, the number of cases in which  
321 eligibility for public assistance was approved or denied, and the number of cases referred for  
322 investigation and the reasons in each case.

323 G. The Board may by regulation authorize the local directors to provide immediate and temporary  
324 assistance to persons pending action of the local departments.

325 H. In the event that any provision of this section conflicts with federal law or regulations, provisions  
326 of federal law shall prevail.