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HOUSE BILL NO. 1689

Offered January 17, 1995

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-2, 32.1-11.3, 32.1-11.4, 32.1-35 and 32.1-36 of the Code of Virginia, relating to disease prevention and education, particularly as related to osteoporosis.

Patrons—Keating, Connally, Cooper, Crittenden, Cunningham, Darner, Hull, Puller and Van
Landingham; Senators: Howell, Lucas, Miller, Y.B. and Woods

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-2, 32.1-11.3, 32.1-11.4, 32.1-35 and 32.1-36 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-2. Finding and purpose.

The General Assembly finds that the protection, improvement and preservation of the public health and of the environment are essential to the general welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth. For this reason, the State Board of Health and the State Health Commissioner, assisted by the State Department of Health, shall administer and provide a comprehensive program of preventive, curative, restorative and environmental health services, educate the citizenry in health and environmental matters, develop and implement health resource plans, collect and preserve vital records and health statistics, assist in research, and abate hazards and nuisances to the health and to the environment, both emergency and otherwise, thereby improving the quality of life in the Commonwealth.

This comprehensive program of preventive, curative, restorative, and environmental health services shall include prevention and education activities focused on women's health, including, but not limited to, osteoporosis, breast cancer, and other conditions unique to or more prevalent among women.

§ 32.1-11.3. Patient and community health education services.

The Board shall formulate a program of patient and community health education services to be provided by the Department on a regional, district, or local basis. The program shall include services addressing health promotion and disease prevention and shall encourage the coordination of local and private sector health education services. *This program shall include information on the causes, prevention, early detection, and treatment of osteoporosis.*

§ 32.1-11.4. Board to establish worksite health promotion grants program.

With such funds as are appropriated for this purpose, the Board of Health shall establish the worksite health promotion grants program. The Board may award grants for the provision of worksite health promotion programs that may include, among other things, on-site health education and screening efforts, information about health risk behaviors linked to preventable disease and disability, occupational safety and health programs, and employer-sponsored physical fitness programs. *All such programs shall include information on the causes, prevention, early detection, and treatment of osteoporosis.*

The Board shall appoint an advisory committee of specialists in the development and delivery of health promotion and disease prevention programs for the worksite to assist in the establishment of criteria for awarding such grants, the contents of the request for proposals, evaluation and ranking of grant applications, and for making recommendations for grant awards.

§ 32.1-35. List and reports of diseases.

The Board shall promulgate from time to time a list of diseases, including diseases caused by exposure to any toxic substance as defined in § 32.1-239 *and diseases or disorders caused by poor nutrition and health-risk behaviors, such as osteoporosis*, which shall be required to be reported. The Board may classify such diseases and prescribe the manner and time of such reporting.

§ 32.1-36. Reports by physicians and laboratory directors.

A. Every physician practicing in this Commonwealth who shall diagnose or reasonably suspect that any patient of his has any disease required by the Board to be reported and every director of any laboratory doing business in this Commonwealth which performs any test whose results indicate the presence of any such disease shall make a report within such time and in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations of the Board.

B. Any physician who diagnoses a venereal disease in a child twelve years of age or under shall, in addition to the requirements of subsection A hereof, report the matter, in accordance with the provisions of § 63.1-248.3, unless the physician reasonably believes that the infection was acquired congenitally or by a means other than sexual abuse.

C. Any physician practicing in this Commonwealth shall report to the local health department the identity of any patient of his who has tested positive for exposure to human immunodeficiency virus as

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60 demonstrated by such test or tests as are approved by the Board for this purpose. However, there is no
61 duty on the part of the physician to notify any third party other than the local health department of such
62 test result, and a cause of action shall not arise from any failure to notify any other third party.

63 *D. For the purpose of enabling the Department of Health to provide information to such patient on*
64 *the causes, prevention, early diagnosis, and the benefits and risks of currently available treatments for*
65 *osteoporosis, any physician who diagnoses osteoporosis in any of his patients may report to the local*
66 *health department the identity of such patient.*