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HOUSE BILL NO. 442

Offered January 17, 1996

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 38.2-4214 and 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 34 of Title 38.2 a section numbered 38.2-3407.10, relating to accident and sickness insurance; access to obstetrician-gynecologists.

Patrons—Keating, Barlow, Christian, Cooper, Crittenden, Crouch, Cunningham, Darner, Drake, Puller, Putney, Rhodes, Van Landingham and Watts; Senators: Maxwell, Miller, Y.B. and Potts

Referred to Committee on Corporations, Insurance and Banking

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 38.2-4214 and 38.2-4319 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 38.2-3407.10 as follows:

§ 38.2-3407.10 Access to obstetrician-gynecologists.

A. Each (i) insurer proposing to issue individual or group accident and sickness insurance policies providing hospital, medical and surgical or major medical coverage on an expense incurred basis, (ii) corporation providing individual or group accident and sickness subscription contracts, and (iii) health maintenance organization providing a health care plan for health care services, whose policies, contracts or plans, including any certificate or evidence of coverage issued in connection with such policies, contracts or plans, include coverage for obstetrical or gynecological services, shall permit any female of age thirteen or older covered thereunder direct access, without prior referral, to the health care services of an obstetrician-gynecologist (i) authorized to provide services under such policy, contract or plan and (ii) selected by such female.

B. For the purpose of this section, "health care services" means the full scope of medically necessary services provided by the obstetrician-gynecologist in the care of or related to the female reproductive system and immunization for disorders and diseases in accordance with the most current published recommendations of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The term includes services provided by nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, and certified nurse midwives in collaboration with the obstetrician-gynecologists providing care to individuals covered under any such policies, contracts or plans.

C. Each insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization subject to the provisions of this section shall inform females covered under any such policy, contract, or plan, of the provisions of this section.

D. The provisions of this section shall not apply to short-term travel or accident-only policies, or to short-term nonrenewable policies of not more than six months' duration.

§ 38.2-4214. Application of certain provisions of law.

No provision of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-200, 38.2-203, 38.2-210 through 38.2-213, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-230, 38.2-232, 38.2-316, 38.2-322, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through 38.2-620, 38.2-700 through 38.2-705, 38.2-900 through 38.2-904, 38.2-1017, 38.2-1018, 38.2-1038, 38.2-1040 through 38.2-1044, Articles 1 (§ 38.2-1300 et seq.) and 2 (§ 38.2-1306.2 et seq.) of Chapter 13, 38.2-1312, 38.2-1314, 38.2-1317 through 38.2-1328, 38.2-1334, 38.2-1340, 38.2-1400 through 38.2-1444, 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836, 38.2-3400, 38.2-3401, 38.2-3404, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3405.1, 38.2-3407.1 through 38.2-3407.6, 38.2-3407.9, 38.2-3407.10, 38.2-3409, 38.2-3411 through 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3425 through 38.2-3429, 38.2-3431, 38.2-3432, 38.2-3500, 38.2-3501, 38.2-3502, 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3516 through 38.2-3520 as they apply to Medicare supplement policies, §§ 38.2-3525, 38.2-3540.1, 38.2-3541, 38.2-3542, 38.2-3600 through 38.2-3607 and Chapter 53 (§ 38.2-5300 et seq.) of this title shall apply to the operation of a plan.

§ 38.2-4319. Statutory construction and relationship to other laws.

A. No provisions of this title except this chapter and, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this chapter, §§ 38.2-100, 38.2-200, 38.2-210 through 38.2-213, 38.2-218 through 38.2-225, 38.2-229, 38.2-232, 38.2-316, 38.2-322, 38.2-400, 38.2-402 through 38.2-413, 38.2-500 through 38.2-515, 38.2-600 through 38.2-620, Chapter 9 (§ 38.2-900 et seq.) of this title, 38.2-1057, 38.2-1306.2 through 38.2-1309, Article 4 (§ 38.2-1317 et seq.) of Chapter 13, 38.2-1800 through 38.2-1836, 38.2-3401, 38.2-3405, 38.2-3405.1, 38.2-3407.2 through 38.2-3407.6, 38.2-3407.9, 38.2-3407.10, 38.2-3411.2, 38.2-3418.1, 38.2-3418.1:1, 38.2-3418.2, 38.2-3419.1, 38.2-3431, 38.2-3432, 38.2-3433, 38.2-3500, 38.2-3514.1, 38.2-3525, 38.2-3542, and Chapter 53 (§ 38.2-5300 et seq.) of this title shall be applicable to any health maintenance organization granted a license under this chapter. This chapter shall not apply to an insurer

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60 or health services plan licensed and regulated in conformance with the insurance laws or Chapter 42
61 (§ 38.2-4200 et seq.) of this title except with respect to the activities of its health maintenance
62 organization.

63 B. Solicitation of enrollees by a licensed health maintenance organization or by its representatives
64 shall not be construed to violate any provisions of law relating to solicitation or advertising by health
65 professionals.

66 C. A licensed health maintenance organization shall not be deemed to be engaged in the unlawful
67 practice of medicine. All health care providers associated with a health maintenance organization shall
68 be subject to all provisions of law.

69 D. Notwithstanding the definition of an eligible employee as set forth in § 38.2-3431, a health
70 maintenance organization providing health care plans pursuant to § 38.2-3431 shall not be required to
71 offer coverage to or accept applications from an employee who does not reside within the health
72 maintenance organization's service area.