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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 617**
2 Offered January 19, 1996
3 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 32.1-330.2, relating to Medicaid*
4 *managed care plans; program information documents.*
5 ——————
6 Patron—Melvin
7 ——————
8 Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions
9 ——————
10 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**
11 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 32.1-330.2, as follows:**
12 *§ 32.1-330.2. Medicaid managed care programs; program information documents; plain language*
13 *required.*
14 *A. Whenever medical assistance services pursuant to this chapter are furnished through managed*
15 *care programs, all program information documents furnished recipients covered thereunder shall be*
16 *written in nontechnical, readily understandable language, using words of common, everyday usage:*
17 *B. Each sponsor or administrator of any such managed care program shall test the readability of its*
18 *program information documents by use of the Flesch Readability Formula, as set forth in Rudolf Flesch,*
19 *The Art of Readable Writing (1949, as revised 1974), and no program information document shall be*
20 *used unless it achieves a Flesch total readability score of forty or more.*
21 *C. All program information documents within the scope of this section, and all amendments thereto,*
22 *shall be filed with the Department of Medical Assistance Services in advance of their use and*
23 *distribution, accompanied by certificates setting forth the Flesch scores and certifying compliance with*
24 *the requirements of this section.*
25 *D. For the purpose of this section, the term "program information documents" means all*
26 *correspondence, brochures, handbooks or other documentation (i) provided recipients covered under*
27 *Medicaid managed care programs, and (ii) describing the programs' medical care coverages and the*
28 *rights and responsibilities of recipients covered thereunder.*