

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1997 SESSION

CHAPTER 748

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 38.2-3407.5:1, relating to accident and sickness insurance; coverage for prescription contraceptives.

[H 1233]

Approved March 22, 1997

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 38.2-3407.5:1 as follows:

§ 38.2-3407.5:1. Coverage for prescription contraceptives.

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 policy, contract or plan, including any certificate or evidence of coverage issued in connection with such policy, contract or plan, includes coverage for prescription drugs on an outpatient basis, shall offer and make available coverage thereunder for any prescribed drug or device approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use as a contraceptive.

B. No insurer, corporation or health maintenance organization shall impose upon any person receiving prescription contraceptive benefits pursuant to this section any (i) copayment, coinsurance payment or fee that is not equally imposed upon all individuals in the same benefit category, class, coinsurance level or copayment level receiving benefits for prescription drugs or (ii) reduction in allowable reimbursement for prescription drug benefits.

C. The provisions of subsection A shall not be construed to:

1. Require coverage for prescription coverage benefits in any contract, policy or plan that does not otherwise provide coverage for prescription drugs;

2. Preclude the use of closed formularies, provided, however, that such formularies shall include oral, implant and injectable contraceptive drugs, intrauterine devices and prescription barrier methods; or

3. Require coverage for experimental contraceptive drugs not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

D. The provisions of this section shall not apply to short-term travel, accident-only, limited or specified disease policies, or contracts designed for issuance to persons eligible for coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, known as Medicare, or any other similar coverage under state or federal governmental plans, or to short-term nonrenewable policies of not more than six months' duration.

E. The provisions of this section shall be applicable to contracts, policies or plans delivered, issued for delivery or renewed in this Commonwealth on and after July 1, 1997.