

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-2522.1, relating to*  
3 *Prescription Monitoring Program; requirements of prescribers.*

4  
5 Approved

[S 294]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-2522.1 as follows:**

8 **§ 54.1-2522.1. Requirements of prescribers.**

9 *A. Any prescriber who is licensed in the Commonwealth and is authorized pursuant to §§ 54.1-3303*  
10 *and 54.1-3408 to issue a prescription for a covered substance shall be registered with the Prescription*  
11 *Monitoring Program by the Department of Health Professions upon filing an application for licensure*  
12 *or renewal of licensure, if the prescriber is not already registered.*

13 *B. Prescribers registered with the Prescription Monitoring Program shall, at the time of initiating a*  
14 *new course of treatment to a human patient that includes the prescribing of benzodiazepine or an opiate*  
15 *anticipated to last more than 90 consecutive days and for which a treatment agreement is entered into,*  
16 *request information from the Director for the purpose of determining what, if any, other covered*  
17 *substances are currently prescribed to the patient. In addition, any prescriber who holds a special*  
18 *identification number from the Drug Enforcement Administration authorizing the prescribing of*  
19 *controlled substances for opioid addiction therapy shall, prior to or as a part of execution of a*  
20 *treatment agreement with the patient, request information from the Director for the purpose of*  
21 *determining what, if any, other covered substances the patient is currently being prescribed. Nothing in*  
22 *this section shall prohibit prescribers from making additional periodic requests for information from the*  
23 *Director as may be required by routine prescribing practices.*

24 *C. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources may identify and publish a list of benzodiazepines*  
25 *or opiates that have a low potential for abuse by human patients. Prescribers who prescribe such*  
26 *identified benzodiazepines or opiates shall not be required to meet the provisions of subsection B. In*  
27 *addition, a prescriber shall not be required to meet the provisions of subsection B if the course of*  
28 *treatment arises from pain management relating to dialysis or cancer treatments.*

29 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2015.**

ENROLLED

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