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HOUSE BILL NO. 1087

Offered January 8, 2020

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A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2818 and 38.2-5602.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to a requirement to fund the deductible amount under a high deductible health plan through a health savings account; deductible security.

Patron—Miyares

Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-2818 and 38.2-5602.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-2818. Health and related insurance for state employees.

A. The Department of Human Resource Management shall establish a plan, subject to the approval of the Governor, for providing health insurance coverage, including chiropractic treatment, hospitalization, medical, surgical and major medical coverage, for state employees and retired state employees with the Commonwealth paying the cost thereof to the extent of the coverage included in such plan. The same plan shall be offered to all part-time state employees, but the total cost shall be paid by such part-time employees. The Department of Human Resource Management shall administer this section. The plan chosen shall provide means whereby coverage for the families or dependents of state employees may be purchased. Except for part-time employees, the Commonwealth may pay all or a portion of the cost thereof, and for such portion as the Commonwealth does not pay, the employee, including a part-time employee, may purchase the coverage by paying the additional cost over the cost of coverage for an employee.

Such contribution shall be financed through appropriations provided by law.

B. The plan shall:

1. Include coverage for low-dose screening mammograms for determining the presence of occult breast cancer. Such coverage shall make available one screening mammogram to persons age 35 through 39, one such mammogram biennially to persons age 40 through 49, and one such mammogram annually to persons age 50 and over and may be limited to a benefit of \$50 per mammogram subject to such dollar limits, deductibles, and coinsurance factors as are no less favorable than for physical illness generally.

The term "mammogram" shall mean an X-ray examination of the breast using equipment dedicated specifically for mammography, including but not limited to the X-ray tube, filter, compression device, screens, film, and cassettes, with an average radiation exposure of less than one rad mid-breast, two views of each breast.

In order to be considered a screening mammogram for which coverage shall be made available under this section:

a. The mammogram shall be (i) ordered by a health care practitioner acting within the scope of his licensure and, in the case of an enrollee of a health maintenance organization, by the health maintenance organization provider; (ii) performed by a registered technologist; (iii) interpreted by a qualified radiologist; and (iv) performed under the direction of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery and certified by the American Board of Radiology or an equivalent examining body. A copy of the mammogram report shall be sent or delivered to the health care practitioner who ordered it;

b. The equipment used to perform the mammogram shall meet the standards set forth by the Virginia Department of Health in its radiation protection regulations; and

c. The mammography film shall be retained by the radiologic facility performing the examination in accordance with the American College of Radiology guidelines or state law.

2. Include coverage for postpartum services providing inpatient care and a home visit or visits that shall be in accordance with the medical criteria, outlined in the most current version of or an official update to the "Guidelines for Perinatal Care" prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or the "Standards for Obstetric-Gynecologic Services" prepared by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Such coverage shall be provided incorporating any changes in such Guidelines or Standards within six months of the publication of such Guidelines or Standards or any official amendment thereto.

3. Include an appeals process for resolution of complaints that shall provide reasonable procedures for the resolution of such complaints and shall be published and disseminated to all covered state employees. The appeals process shall be compliant with federal rules and regulations governing

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59 nonfederal, self-insured governmental health plans. The appeals process shall include a separate  
60 expedited emergency appeals procedure that shall provide resolution within time frames established by  
61 federal law. For appeals involving adverse decisions as defined in § 32.1-137.7, the Department shall  
62 contract with one or more independent review organizations to review such decisions. Independent  
63 review organizations are entities that conduct independent external review of adverse benefit  
64 determinations. The Department shall adopt regulations to assure that the independent review  
65 organization conducting the reviews has adequate standards, credentials and experience for such review.  
66 The independent review organization shall examine the final denial of claims to determine whether the  
67 decision is objective, clinically valid, and compatible with established principles of health care. The  
68 decision of the independent review organization shall (i) be in writing, (ii) contain findings of fact as to  
69 the material issues in the case and the basis for those findings, and (iii) be final and binding if  
70 consistent with law and policy.

71 Prior to assigning an appeal to an independent review organization, the Department shall verify that  
72 the independent review organization conducting the review of a denial of claims has no relationship or  
73 association with (i) the covered person or the covered person's authorized representative; (ii) the treating  
74 health care provider, or any of its employees or affiliates; (iii) the medical care facility at which the  
75 covered service would be provided, or any of its employees or affiliates; or (iv) the development or  
76 manufacture of the drug, device, procedure or other therapy that is the subject of the final denial of a  
77 claim. The independent review organization shall not be a subsidiary of, nor owned or controlled by, a  
78 health plan, a trade association of health plans, or a professional association of health care providers.  
79 There shall be no liability on the part of and no cause of action shall arise against any officer or  
80 employee of an independent review organization for any actions taken or not taken or statements made  
81 by such officer or employee in good faith in the performance of his powers and duties.

82 4. Include coverage for early intervention services. For purposes of this section, "early intervention  
83 services" means medically necessary speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy  
84 and assistive technology services and devices for dependents from birth to age three who are certified by  
85 the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services as eligible for services under Part H  
86 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. § 1471 et seq.). Medically necessary early  
87 intervention services for the population certified by the Department of Behavioral Health and  
88 Developmental Services shall mean those services designed to help an individual attain or retain the  
89 capability to function age-appropriately within his environment, and shall include services that enhance  
90 functional ability without effecting a cure.

91 For persons previously covered under the plan, there shall be no denial of coverage due to the  
92 existence of a preexisting condition. The cost of early intervention services shall not be applied to any  
93 contractual provision limiting the total amount of coverage paid by the insurer to or on behalf of the  
94 insured during the insured's lifetime.

95 5. Include coverage for prescription drugs and devices approved by the United States Food and Drug  
96 Administration for use as contraceptives.

97 6. Not deny coverage for any drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for  
98 use in the treatment of cancer on the basis that the drug has not been approved by the United States  
99 Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of the specific type of cancer for which the drug has  
100 been prescribed, if the drug has been recognized as safe and effective for treatment of that specific type  
101 of cancer in one of the standard reference compendia.

102 7. Not deny coverage for any drug prescribed to treat a covered indication so long as the drug has  
103 been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for at least one indication and the  
104 drug is recognized for treatment of the covered indication in one of the standard reference compendia or  
105 in substantially accepted peer-reviewed medical literature.

106 8. Include coverage for equipment, supplies and outpatient self-management training and education,  
107 including medical nutrition therapy, for the treatment of insulin-dependent diabetes, insulin-using  
108 diabetes, gestational diabetes and noninsulin-using diabetes if prescribed by a health care professional  
109 legally authorized to prescribe such items under law. To qualify for coverage under this subdivision,  
110 diabetes outpatient self-management training and education shall be provided by a certified, registered or  
111 licensed health care professional.

112 9. Include coverage for reconstructive breast surgery. For purposes of this section, "reconstructive  
113 breast surgery" means surgery performed on and after July 1, 1998, (i) coincident with a mastectomy  
114 performed for breast cancer or (ii) following a mastectomy performed for breast cancer to reestablish  
115 symmetry between the two breasts. For persons previously covered under the plan, there shall be no  
116 denial of coverage due to preexisting conditions.

117 10. Include coverage for annual pap smears, including coverage, on and after July 1, 1999, for  
118 annual testing performed by any FDA-approved gynecologic cytology screening technologies.

119 11. Include coverage providing a minimum stay in the hospital of not less than 48 hours for a patient  
120 following a radical or modified radical mastectomy and 24 hours of inpatient care following a total

121 mastectomy or a partial mastectomy with lymph node dissection for treatment of breast cancer. Nothing  
 122 in this subdivision shall be construed as requiring the provision of inpatient coverage where the  
 123 attending physician in consultation with the patient determines that a shorter period of hospital stay is  
 124 appropriate.

125 12. Include coverage (i) to persons age 50 and over and (ii) to persons age 40 and over who are at  
 126 high risk for prostate cancer, according to the most recent published guidelines of the American Cancer  
 127 Society, for one PSA test in a 12-month period and digital rectal examinations, all in accordance with  
 128 American Cancer Society guidelines. For the purpose of this subdivision, "PSA testing" means the  
 129 analysis of a blood sample to determine the level of prostate specific antigen.

130 13. Permit any individual covered under the plan direct access to the health care services of a  
 131 participating specialist (i) authorized to provide services under the plan and (ii) selected by the covered  
 132 individual. The plan shall have a procedure by which an individual who has an ongoing special  
 133 condition may, after consultation with the primary care physician, receive a referral to a specialist for  
 134 such condition who shall be responsible for and capable of providing and coordinating the individual's  
 135 primary and specialty care related to the initial specialty care referral. If such an individual's care would  
 136 most appropriately be coordinated by such a specialist, the plan shall refer the individual to a specialist.  
 137 For the purposes of this subdivision, "special condition" means a condition or disease that is (i)  
 138 life-threatening, degenerative, or disabling and (ii) requires specialized medical care over a prolonged  
 139 period of time. Within the treatment period authorized by the referral, such specialist shall be permitted  
 140 to treat the individual without a further referral from the individual's primary care provider and may  
 141 authorize such referrals, procedures, tests, and other medical services related to the initial referral as the  
 142 individual's primary care provider would otherwise be permitted to provide or authorize. The plan shall  
 143 have a procedure by which an individual who has an ongoing special condition that requires ongoing  
 144 care from a specialist may receive a standing referral to such specialist for the treatment of the special  
 145 condition. If the primary care provider, in consultation with the plan and the specialist, if any,  
 146 determines that such a standing referral is appropriate, the plan or issuer shall make such a referral to a  
 147 specialist. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the plan from requiring a participating specialist to  
 148 provide written notification to the covered individual's primary care physician of any visit to such  
 149 specialist. Such notification may include a description of the health care services rendered at the time of  
 150 the visit.

151 14. Include provisions allowing employees to continue receiving health care services for a period of  
 152 up to 90 days from the date of the primary care physician's notice of termination from any of the plan's  
 153 provider panels. The plan shall notify any provider at least 90 days prior to the date of termination of  
 154 the provider, except when the provider is terminated for cause.

155 For a period of at least 90 days from the date of the notice of a provider's termination from any of  
 156 the plan's provider panels, except when a provider is terminated for cause, a provider shall be permitted  
 157 by the plan to render health care services to any of the covered employees who (i) were in an active  
 158 course of treatment from the provider prior to the notice of termination and (ii) request to continue  
 159 receiving health care services from the provider.

160 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, any provider shall be permitted by the plan to  
 161 continue rendering health services to any covered employee who has entered the second trimester of  
 162 pregnancy at the time of the provider's termination of participation, except when a provider is terminated  
 163 for cause. Such treatment shall, at the covered employee's option, continue through the provision of  
 164 postpartum care directly related to the delivery.

165 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, any provider shall be permitted to continue  
 166 rendering health services to any covered employee who is determined to be terminally ill (as defined  
 167 under § 1861(dd)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act) at the time of a provider's termination of  
 168 participation, except when a provider is terminated for cause. Such treatment shall, at the covered  
 169 employee's option, continue for the remainder of the employee's life for care directly related to the  
 170 treatment of the terminal illness.

171 A provider who continues to render health care services pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
 172 reimbursed in accordance with the carrier's agreement with such provider existing immediately before  
 173 the provider's termination of participation.

174 15. Include coverage for patient costs incurred during participation in clinical trials for treatment  
 175 studies on cancer, including ovarian cancer trials.

176 The reimbursement for patient costs incurred during participation in clinical trials for treatment  
 177 studies on cancer shall be determined in the same manner as reimbursement is determined for other  
 178 medical and surgical procedures. Such coverage shall have durational limits, dollar limits, deductibles,  
 179 copayments and coinsurance factors that are no less favorable than for physical illness generally.

180 For purposes of this subdivision:

181 "Cooperative group" means a formal network of facilities that collaborate on research projects and

182 have an established NIH-approved peer review program operating within the group. "Cooperative group"  
183 includes (i) the National Cancer Institute Clinical Cooperative Group and (ii) the National Cancer  
184 Institute Community Clinical Oncology Program.

185 "FDA" means the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

186 "Multiple project assurance contract" means a contract between an institution and the federal  
187 Department of Health and Human Services that defines the relationship of the institution to the federal  
188 Department of Health and Human Services and sets out the responsibilities of the institution and the  
189 procedures that will be used by the institution to protect human subjects.

190 "NCI" means the National Cancer Institute.

191 "NIH" means the National Institutes of Health.

192 "Patient" means a person covered under the plan established pursuant to this section.

193 "Patient cost" means the cost of a medically necessary health care service that is incurred as a result  
194 of the treatment being provided to a patient for purposes of a clinical trial. "Patient cost" does not  
195 include (i) the cost of nonhealth care services that a patient may be required to receive as a result of the  
196 treatment being provided for purposes of a clinical trial, (ii) costs associated with managing the research  
197 associated with the clinical trial, or (iii) the cost of the investigational drug or device.

198 Coverage for patient costs incurred during clinical trials for treatment studies on cancer shall be  
199 provided if the treatment is being conducted in a Phase II, Phase III, or Phase IV clinical trial. Such  
200 treatment may, however, be provided on a case-by-case basis if the treatment is being provided in a  
201 Phase I clinical trial.

202 The treatment described in the previous paragraph shall be provided by a clinical trial approved by:

203 a. The National Cancer Institute;

204 b. An NCI cooperative group or an NCI center;

205 c. The FDA in the form of an investigational new drug application;

206 d. The federal Department of Veterans Affairs; or

207 e. An institutional review board of an institution in the Commonwealth that has a multiple project  
208 assurance contract approved by the Office of Protection from Research Risks of the NCI.

209 The facility and personnel providing the treatment shall be capable of doing so by virtue of their  
210 experience, training, and expertise.

211 Coverage under this subdivision shall apply only if:

212 (1) There is no clearly superior, noninvestigational treatment alternative;

213 (2) The available clinical or preclinical data provide a reasonable expectation that the treatment will  
214 be at least as effective as the noninvestigational alternative; and

215 (3) The patient and the physician or health care provider who provides services to the patient under  
216 the plan conclude that the patient's participation in the clinical trial would be appropriate, pursuant to  
217 procedures established by the plan.

218 16. Include coverage providing a minimum stay in the hospital of not less than 23 hours for a  
219 covered employee following a laparoscopy-assisted vaginal hysterectomy and 48 hours for a covered  
220 employee following a vaginal hysterectomy, as outlined in Milliman & Robertson's nationally recognized  
221 guidelines. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as requiring the provision of the total hours  
222 referenced when the attending physician, in consultation with the covered employee, determines that a  
223 shorter hospital stay is appropriate.

224 17. Include coverage for biologically based mental illness.

225 For purposes of this subdivision, a "biologically based mental illness" is any mental or nervous  
226 condition caused by a biological disorder of the brain that results in a clinically significant syndrome  
227 that substantially limits the person's functioning; specifically, the following diagnoses are defined as  
228 biologically based mental illness as they apply to adults and children: schizophrenia, schizoaffective  
229 disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,  
230 attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, and drug and alcoholism addiction.

231 Coverage for biologically based mental illnesses shall neither be different nor separate from coverage  
232 for any other illness, condition or disorder for purposes of determining deductibles, benefit year or  
233 lifetime durational limits, benefit year or lifetime dollar limits, lifetime episodes or treatment limits,  
234 copayment and coinsurance factors, and benefit year maximum for deductibles and copayment and  
235 coinsurance factors.

236 Nothing shall preclude the undertaking of usual and customary procedures to determine the  
237 appropriateness of, and medical necessity for, treatment of biologically based mental illnesses under this  
238 option, provided that all such appropriateness and medical necessity determinations are made in the same  
239 manner as those determinations made for the treatment of any other illness, condition or disorder  
240 covered by such policy or contract.

241 18. Offer and make available coverage for the treatment of morbid obesity through gastric bypass  
242 surgery or such other methods as may be recognized by the National Institutes of Health as effective for  
243 the long-term reversal of morbid obesity. Such coverage shall have durational limits, dollar limits,

244 deductibles, copayments and coinsurance factors that are no less favorable than for physical illness  
 245 generally. Access to surgery for morbid obesity shall not be restricted based upon dietary or any other  
 246 criteria not approved by the National Institutes of Health. For purposes of this subdivision, "morbid  
 247 obesity" means (i) a weight that is at least 100 pounds over or twice the ideal weight for frame, age,  
 248 height, and gender as specified in the 1983 Metropolitan Life Insurance tables, (ii) a body mass index  
 249 (BMI) equal to or greater than 35 kilograms per meter squared with comorbidity or coexisting medical  
 250 conditions such as hypertension, cardiopulmonary conditions, sleep apnea, or diabetes, or (iii) a BMI of  
 251 40 kilograms per meter squared without such comorbidity. As used herein, "BMI" equals weight in  
 252 kilograms divided by height in meters squared.

253 19. Include coverage for colorectal cancer screening, specifically screening with an annual fecal  
 254 occult blood test, flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy, or in appropriate circumstances radiologic  
 255 imaging, in accordance with the most recently published recommendations established by the American  
 256 College of Gastroenterology, in consultation with the American Cancer Society, for the ages, family  
 257 histories, and frequencies referenced in such recommendations. The coverage for colorectal cancer  
 258 screening shall not be more restrictive than or separate from coverage provided for any other illness,  
 259 condition or disorder for purposes of determining deductibles, benefit year or lifetime durational limits,  
 260 benefit year or lifetime dollar limits, lifetime episodes or treatment limits, copayment and coinsurance  
 261 factors, and benefit year maximum for deductibles and copayments and coinsurance factors.

262 20. On and after July 1, 2002, require that a prescription benefit card, health insurance benefit card,  
 263 or other technology that complies with the requirements set forth in § 38.2-3407.4:2 be issued to each  
 264 employee provided coverage pursuant to this section, and shall upon any changes in the required data  
 265 elements set forth in subsection A of § 38.2-3407.4:2, either reissue the card or provide employees  
 266 covered under the plan such corrective information as may be required to electronically process a  
 267 prescription claim.

268 21. Include coverage for infant hearing screenings and all necessary audiological examinations  
 269 provided pursuant to § 32.1-64.1 using any technology approved by the United States Food and Drug  
 270 Administration, and as recommended by the national Joint Committee on Infant Hearing in its most  
 271 current position statement addressing early hearing detection and intervention programs. Such coverage  
 272 shall include follow-up audiological examinations as recommended by a physician, physician assistant,  
 273 nurse practitioner or audiologist and performed by a licensed audiologist to confirm the existence or  
 274 absence of hearing loss.

275 22. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, every plan established in  
 276 accordance with this section shall comply with the provisions of § 2.2-2818.2.

277 C. Claims incurred during a fiscal year but not reported during that fiscal year shall be paid from  
 278 such funds as shall be appropriated by law. Appropriations, premiums and other payments shall be  
 279 deposited in the employee health insurance fund, from which payments for claims, premiums, cost  
 280 containment programs and administrative expenses shall be withdrawn from time to time. The funds of  
 281 the health insurance fund shall be deemed separate and independent trust funds, shall be segregated from  
 282 all other funds of the Commonwealth, and shall be invested and administered solely in the interests of  
 283 the employees and their beneficiaries. Neither the General Assembly nor any public officer, employee,  
 284 or agency shall use or authorize the use of such trust funds for any purpose other than as provided in  
 285 law for benefits, refunds, and administrative expenses, including but not limited to legislative oversight  
 286 of the health insurance fund.

287 D. For the purposes of this section:

288 "Peer-reviewed medical literature" means a scientific study published only after having been critically  
 289 reviewed for scientific accuracy, validity, and reliability by unbiased independent experts in a journal  
 290 that has been determined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors to have met the  
 291 Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. Peer-reviewed medical  
 292 literature does not include publications or supplements to publications that are sponsored to a significant  
 293 extent by a pharmaceutical manufacturing company or health carrier.

294 "Standard reference compendia" means:

- 295 1. American Hospital Formulary Service — Drug Information;
- 296 2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network's Drugs & Biologics Compendium; or
- 297 3. Elsevier Gold Standard's Clinical Pharmacology.

298 "State employee" means state employee as defined in § 51.1-124.3; employee as defined in  
 299 § 51.1-201; the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General; judge as defined in § 51.1-301  
 300 and judges, clerks and deputy clerks of regional juvenile and domestic relations, county juvenile and  
 301 domestic relations, and district courts of the Commonwealth; interns and residents employed by the  
 302 School of Medicine and Hospital of the University of Virginia, and interns, residents, and employees of  
 303 the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority as provided in § 23.1-2415; and  
 304 employees of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority as provided in § 4.1-101.05.

305 E. Provisions shall be made for retired employees to obtain coverage under the above plan,  
306 including, as an option, coverage for vision and dental care. The Commonwealth may, but shall not be  
307 obligated to, pay all or any portion of the cost thereof.

308 F. Any self-insured group health insurance plan established by the Department of Human Resource  
309 Management that utilizes a network of preferred providers shall not exclude any physician solely on the  
310 basis of a reprimand or censure from the Board of Medicine, so long as the physician otherwise meets  
311 the plan criteria established by the Department.

312 G. The plan shall include, in each planning district, at least two health coverage options, each  
313 sponsored by unrelated entities. No later than July 1, 2006, one of the health coverage options to be  
314 available in each planning district shall be a high deductible health plan that would qualify for a health  
315 savings account pursuant to § 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; *however, on and*  
316 *after January 1, 2021, a high deductible health plan shall not be chosen by the Department of Human*  
317 *Resource Management for inclusion in the plan for state employees and retired state employees unless*  
318 *the Commonwealth or other agency sponsoring the plan annually funds each of the health savings*  
319 *accounts associated with the high deductible health plan in an amount that is not less than the annual*  
320 *deductible amount under the high deductible health plan.*

321 In each planning district that does not have an available health coverage alternative, the Department  
322 shall voluntarily enter into negotiations at any time with any health coverage provider who seeks to  
323 provide coverage under the plan.

324 This subsection shall not apply to any state agency authorized by the Department to establish and  
325 administer its own health insurance coverage plan separate from the plan established by the Department.

326 H. Any self-insured group health insurance plan established by the Department of Human Resource  
327 Management that includes coverage for prescription drugs on an outpatient basis may apply a formulary  
328 to the prescription drug benefits provided by the plan if the formulary is developed, reviewed at least  
329 annually, and updated as necessary in consultation with and with the approval of a pharmacy and  
330 therapeutics committee, a majority of whose members are actively practicing licensed (i) pharmacists,  
331 (ii) physicians, and (iii) other health care providers.

332 If the plan maintains one or more drug formularies, the plan shall establish a process to allow a  
333 person to obtain, without additional cost-sharing beyond that provided for formulary prescription drugs  
334 in the plan, a specific, medically necessary nonformulary prescription drug if, after reasonable  
335 investigation and consultation with the prescriber, the formulary drug is determined to be an  
336 inappropriate therapy for the medical condition of the person. The plan shall act on such requests within  
337 one business day of receipt of the request.

338 Any plan established in accordance with this section shall be authorized to provide for the selection  
339 of a single mail order pharmacy provider as the exclusive provider of pharmacy services that are  
340 delivered to the covered person's address by mail, common carrier, or delivery service. As used in this  
341 subsection, "mail order pharmacy provider" means a pharmacy permitted to conduct business in the  
342 Commonwealth whose primary business is to dispense a prescription drug or device under a prescriptive  
343 drug order and to deliver the drug or device to a patient primarily by mail, common carrier, or delivery  
344 service.

345 I. Any plan established in accordance with this section requiring preauthorization prior to rendering  
346 medical treatment shall have personnel available to provide authorization at all times when such  
347 preauthorization is required.

348 J. Any plan established in accordance with this section shall provide to all covered employees written  
349 notice of any benefit reductions during the contract period at least 30 days before such reductions  
350 become effective.

351 K. No contract between a provider and any plan established in accordance with this section shall  
352 include provisions that require a health care provider or health care provider group to deny covered  
353 services that such provider or group knows to be medically necessary and appropriate that are provided  
354 with respect to a covered employee with similar medical conditions.

355 L. The Department of Human Resource Management shall appoint an Ombudsman to promote and  
356 protect the interests of covered employees under any state employee's health plan.

357 The Ombudsman shall:

358 1. Assist covered employees in understanding their rights and the processes available to them  
359 according to their state health plan.

360 2. Answer inquiries from covered employees by telephone and electronic mail.

361 3. Provide to covered employees information concerning the state health plans.

362 4. Develop information on the types of health plans available, including benefits and complaint  
363 procedures and appeals.

364 5. Make available, either separately or through an existing Internet web site utilized by the  
365 Department of Human Resource Management, information as set forth in subdivision 4 and such  
366 additional information as he deems appropriate.

367 6. Maintain data on inquiries received, the types of assistance requested, any actions taken and the  
368 disposition of each such matter.

369 7. Upon request, assist covered employees in using the procedures and processes available to them  
370 from their health plan, including all appeal procedures. Such assistance may require the review of health  
371 care records of a covered employee, which shall be done only in accordance with the federal Health  
372 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy rules. The confidentiality of any such medical  
373 records shall be maintained in accordance with the confidentiality and disclosure laws of the  
374 Commonwealth.

375 8. Ensure that covered employees have access to the services provided by the Ombudsman and that  
376 the covered employees receive timely responses from the Ombudsman or his representatives to the  
377 inquiries.

378 9. Report annually on his activities to the standing committees of the General Assembly having  
379 jurisdiction over insurance and over health and the Joint Commission on Health Care by December 1 of  
380 each year.

381 M. The plan established in accordance with this section shall not refuse to accept or make  
382 reimbursement pursuant to an assignment of benefits made to a dentist or oral surgeon by a covered  
383 employee.

384 For purposes of this subsection, "assignment of benefits" means the transfer of dental care coverage  
385 reimbursement benefits or other rights under the plan. The assignment of benefits shall not be effective  
386 until the covered employee notifies the plan in writing of the assignment.

387 N. Beginning July 1, 2006, any plan established pursuant to this section shall provide for an  
388 identification number, which shall be assigned to the covered employee and shall not be the same as the  
389 employee's social security number.

390 O. Any group health insurance plan established by the Department of Human Resource Management  
391 that contains a coordination of benefits provision shall provide written notification to any eligible  
392 employee as a prominent part of its enrollment materials that if such eligible employee is covered under  
393 another group accident and sickness insurance policy, group accident and sickness subscription contract,  
394 or group health care plan for health care services, that insurance policy, subscription contract or health  
395 care plan may have primary responsibility for the covered expenses of other family members enrolled  
396 with the eligible employee. Such written notification shall describe generally the conditions upon which  
397 the other coverage would be primary for dependent children enrolled under the eligible employee's  
398 coverage and the method by which the eligible enrollee may verify from the plan that coverage would  
399 have primary responsibility for the covered expenses of each family member.

400 P. Any plan established by the Department of Human Resource Management pursuant to this section  
401 shall provide that coverage under such plan for family members enrolled under a participating state  
402 employee's coverage shall continue for a period of at least 30 days following the death of such state  
403 employee.

404 Q. The plan established in accordance with this section that follows a policy of sending its payment  
405 to the covered employee or covered family member for a claim for services received from a  
406 nonparticipating physician or osteopath shall (i) include language in the member handbook that notifies  
407 the covered employee of the responsibility to apply the plan payment to the claim from such  
408 nonparticipating provider, (ii) include this language with any such payment sent to the covered employee  
409 or covered family member, and (iii) include the name and any last known address of the  
410 nonparticipating provider on the explanation of benefits statement.

411 R. The Department of Human Resource Management shall report annually, by November 30 of each  
412 year, on cost and utilization information for each of the mandated benefits set forth in subsection B,  
413 including any mandated benefit made applicable, pursuant to subdivision B 22, to any plan established  
414 pursuant to this section. The report shall be in the same detail and form as required of reports submitted  
415 pursuant to § 38.2-3419.1, with such additional information as is required to determine the financial  
416 impact, including the costs and benefits, of the particular mandated benefit.

417 **§ 38.2-5602.1. Operation of health savings accounts; high deductible health plans; deductible**  
418 **security.**

419 Health savings accounts may be established in the Commonwealth pursuant to applicable federal law  
420 and regulation. Unless otherwise prohibited by any provision of this title, any health carrier, as defined  
421 in § 38.2-5800, authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth may offer a high deductible health  
422 plan that would qualify for and may be offered in conjunction with a health savings account pursuant to  
423 § 223 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. *However, such a health carrier shall not offer*  
424 *a high deductible health plan in the small employer market or large employer market on or after*  
425 *January 1, 2021, unless each employer purchasing such a health plan is required by the terms of its*  
426 *agreement with the health carrier to annually fund the health savings account associated with the high*  
427 *deductible health plan in an amount that is not less than the annual deductible amount of employees*

**428** *covered under the high deductible health plan.*