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HOUSE BILL NO. 2147

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-3410.01, relating to prescription drug labels; multilingual labeling requirement.

Patrons—Guzman, Adams, D.M., Clark, Hope, Kory, Maldonado, Rasoul, Shin, Simon and Simonds

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-3410.01 as follows:
§ 54.1-3410.01. Multilingual drug labels.

A. Upon the request of a patient or patient's representative, a pharmacist shall provide translated directions for use, which shall be printed on the prescription drug container, the label, or a supplemental document. If translated directions for use appear on a prescription drug container or label, the English-language version of the directions for use shall also appear on the container or label.

B. The Board shall publish on its website translated model directions for use. The model directions shall comply with the labeling requirements in § 54.1-3410. Such model directions shall be provided in at least the five languages most commonly spoken in the Commonwealth other than English.

C. Pharmacists shall not be required to provide translated directions for use beyond the languages that the Board has published on its website. A pharmacist may provide his own translated directions for use to comply with the requirements of this section, and nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a pharmacist from providing translated directions for use in languages beyond those that the Board has published on its website.

D. Pharmacies shall be required to post signage to provide notification of the right to request multilingual drug labels in the five languages most commonly spoken in the Commonwealth other than English.