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HOUSE BILL NO. 1621

House Amendments in [ ] — January 29, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact [ §§ 18.2-250.1 and 54.1-3408 ] of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 18.2-251.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to prescribing marijuana as medicine.

Patron—Marshall

(Incorporated Bill—HB 2654 [Katzen])

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That [ §§ 18.2-250.1 and 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia are is ] amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 18.2-250.1. Possession of marijuana unlawful.

A. It is unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to possess marijuana unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of his professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized by the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.).

Upon the prosecution of a person for violation of this section, ownership or occupancy of the premises or vehicle upon or in which marijuana was found shall not create a presumption that such person either knowingly or intentionally possessed such marijuana.

Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be confined in jail not more than thirty days and a fine of not more than \$500, either or both; any person, upon a second or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

B. The provisions of this section shall not apply to members of state, federal, county, city or town law-enforcement agencies or correctional officers, as defined in § 53.1-1, certified as handlers of dogs trained in the detection of controlled substances when possession of marijuana is necessary for the performance of their duties.

[ § 54.1-3408. Professional use by practitioners.

A. A practitioner of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry, or veterinary medicine or a licensed nurse practitioner pursuant to § 54.1-2957.01 a licensed physician's assistant pursuant to § 54.1-2952.1, or a TPA-certified optometrist pursuant to Article 5 (§ 54.1-3222 et seq.) of Chapter 32 of this title shall only prescribe, dispense, or administer controlled substances in good faith for medicinal or therapeutic purposes within the course of his professional practice. The practitioner may prescribe, on a written prescription or on oral prescription as authorized by this chapter, and administer drugs and devices, or he may cause them to be administered by a nurse, physician's assistant or intern under his direction and supervision, or a practitioner may prescribe and cause drugs and devices to be administered to patients in state-owned or state-operated hospitals or facilities licensed as hospitals by the Board of Health or psychiatric hospitals licensed by the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board by other persons who have been trained properly to administer drugs and who administer drugs only under the control and supervision of the practitioner or a pharmacist or a practitioner may cause drugs and devices to be administered to patients by emergency medical services personnel who have been certified and authorized to administer such drugs and devices pursuant to Board of Health regulations governing emergency medical services and who are acting within the scope of such certification.

Pursuant to an oral or written order or standing protocol issued by the practitioner within the course of his professional practice, a practitioner may authorize registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to possess (i) epinephrine for administration in treatment of emergency medical conditions and (ii) heparin and sterile normal saline to use for the maintenance of intravenous access lines.

A practitioner may authorize the administration of vaccines to adults for immunization, when a practitioner with prescriptive authority is not physically present, by registered nurses or licensed practical nurses under the immediate and direct supervision of a registered nurse, pursuant to a protocol approved by the Board of Nursing. A practitioner acting on behalf of and in accordance with established protocols of the Department of Health may authorize the administration of vaccines to any person by a nurse when the prescriber is not physically present.

No practitioner of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, dentistry, or veterinary medicine or a licensed nurse practitioner pursuant to § 54.1-2957.01 a licensed physician's assistant pursuant to § 54.1-2952.1, or a TPA-certified optometrist pursuant to Article 5 (§ 54.1-3222 et seq.) of Chapter 32 of this title shall prescribe, dispense, administer, or cause to be administered marijuana.

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60 A dentist may cause Schedule VI topical drugs to be administered under his direction and  
61 supervision by either a dental hygienist or by an authorized agent of the dentist.

62 No written prescription order form shall include more than one prescription. This provision shall not  
63 apply, however, to the entry of any order on a patient's chart in any hospital or any long-term care  
64 facility, as defined in Board regulations, in Virginia or to a prescription ordered through the pharmacy  
65 operated by the Department of Corrections; the central pharmacy of the Department of Health; or the  
66 central outpatient pharmacy operated by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and  
67 Substance Abuse Services.

68 Such a prescription shall be written, dated, and signed by the person prescribing on the day when  
69 issued, and shall bear the full name and address of the patient for whom the drug is prescribed, and the  
70 full name, address, and registry number under the federal laws of the person prescribing, if he is  
71 required by those laws to be so registered.

72 This section shall not prevent the administration of drugs by a person who has satisfactorily  
73 completed a training program for this purpose approved by the Board of Nursing and who administers  
74 such drugs in accordance with a physician's instructions pertaining to dosage, frequency, and manner of  
75 administration, and in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy relating to  
76 security and record keeping, when the drugs administered would be normally self-administered by (i) a  
77 resident of a facility licensed or certified by the State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance  
78 Abuse Services Board; (ii) a resident of any adult care residence which is licensed by the Department of  
79 Social Services; (iii) a resident of the Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind; (iv) a resident of a  
80 facility approved by the Board or Department of Juvenile Justice for the placement of children in need  
81 of services or delinquent or alleged delinquent youth; (v) a program participant of an adult day-care  
82 center licensed by the Department of Social Services; or (vi) a resident of any facility authorized or  
83 operated by a state or local government whose primary purpose is not to provide health care services.

84 Nothing in this title shall prohibit the administration of normally self-administered oral or topical  
85 drugs by unlicensed individuals to a person in his private residence.

86 This section shall not interfere with any prescriber issuing prescriptions in compliance with the  
87 provisions of this section to a Board agent for use pursuant to subsection G of § 18.2-258.1. Such  
88 prescriptions issued by such prescriber shall be deemed to be valid prescriptions. This section shall not  
89 prohibit a prescriber from using preprinted prescriptions for drugs classified in Schedule VI if all  
90 requirements concerning dates, signatures, and other information specified above are otherwise fulfilled.

91 B. The written prescription referred to in subsection A of this section shall be written with ink or  
92 individually typed and each prescription shall be manually signed by the prescriber. The prescription  
93 may be prepared by an agent for his signature. The prescription shall contain the name, address,  
94 telephone number, and federal controlled substances registration number assigned to the prescriber. The  
95 prescriber's information shall be either preprinted upon the prescription blank, typewritten, rubber  
96 stamped, or printed by hand.

97 The oral prescription referred to in subsection A of this section shall be transmitted to the pharmacy  
98 of the patient's choice by the prescriber or his authorized agent. For the purposes of this section, an  
99 authorized agent of the prescriber shall be an employee of the prescriber who is under his immediate  
100 and personal supervision, or if not an employee, an individual who holds a valid license allowing the  
101 administration or dispensing of drugs and who is specifically directed by the prescriber.

102 C. Pursuant to § 32.1-87, the prescription form shall include two boxes, one labelled "Voluntary  
103 Formulary Permitted" and the other labelled "Dispense As Written." A prescriber may indicate his  
104 permission for the dispensing of a drug product included in the Formulary upon signing a prescription  
105 form and marking the box labelled "Voluntary Formulary Permitted." A Voluntary Formulary product  
106 shall be dispensed if the prescriber fails to indicate his preference. If no Voluntary Formulary product is  
107 immediately available, or if the patient objects to the dispensing of a generic drug, the pharmacist may  
108 dispense a brand name drug. On and after July 1, 1993, printed prescription forms shall provide:

- 109
- 110  Dispense As Written
- 111  Voluntary Formulary Permitted
- 112 .....
- 113 \_\_\_\_\_
- 114 \_\_\_\_\_
- 115 \_\_\_\_\_
- 116 \_\_\_\_\_
- 117 \_\_\_\_\_
- 118 \_\_\_\_\_
- 119 \_\_\_\_\_
- 120 \_\_\_\_\_

115 If neither box is marked, a Voluntary Formulary product must be dispensed."

116 D. Prescribers' orders, whether written as chart orders or prescriptions, for Schedules II, III, IV and  
117 V controlled drugs to be administered to (i) patients or residents of long-term care facilities served by a  
118 Virginia pharmacy from a remote location or (ii) patients receiving parenteral, intravenous,  
119 intramuscular, subcutaneous or intraspinal infusion therapy and served by a home infusion pharmacy  
120 from a remote location, may be transmitted to that remote pharmacy by an electronic communications

121 device over telephone lines which send the exact image to the receiver in hard-copy form, and such  
122 facsimile copy shall be treated as a valid, original prescription order. ]  
123 2. That § 18.2-251.1 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.

**ENGROSSED**

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