

SENATE BILL NO. 681

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Obenshain)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 8.01-27.5 and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia, relating to duty of in-network providers to submit claims to health insurers; Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 8.01-27.5 and 59.1-200 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 8.01-27.5. Duty of in-network providers to submit claims to health insurers; liability of covered patients for unbilled health care services.

A. As used in this section:

"Covered patient" means a patient whose health care services are covered under terms of a health care policy.

"Health care policy" means any health care plan, subscription contract, evidence of coverage, certificate, health services plan, medical or hospital services plan, accident and sickness insurance policy or certificate, or other similar certificate, policy, contract, or arrangement, and any endorsement or rider thereto, offered, arranged, issued, or administered by a health insurer to an individual or a group contract holder to cover all or a portion of the cost of individuals, or their eligible dependents, receiving covered health care services. "Health care policy" includes coverages issued pursuant to (i) Chapter 28 (§ 2.2-2800 et seq.) of Title 2.2 (state employees); (ii) § 2.2-1204 (local choice); (iii) 5 U.S.C. § 8901 et seq. (federal employees); (iv) an employee welfare benefit plan as defined in 29 U.S.C. § 1002 (1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) that is self-insured or self-funded; and (v) Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395 et seq. (Medicare), Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq. (Medicaid), or Title XXI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1397aa et seq. (CHIP). "Health care policy" does not include (a) Chapter 55 of Title 10 of the United States Code, 10

27 U.S.C. § 1071 et seq. (TRICARE); (b) subscription contracts for one or more dental or optometric services
28 plans that are subject to Chapter 45 (§ 38.2-4500 et seq.) of Title 38.2; (c) insurance policies that provide
29 coverage, singly or in combination, for death, dismemberment, disability, or hospital and medical care
30 caused by or necessitated as a result of accident or specified kinds of accidents, including student accident,
31 sports accident, blanket accident, specific accident, and accidental death and dismemberment policies; (d)
32 credit life insurance and credit accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to Chapter 37.1 (§ 38.2-
33 3717 et seq.) of Title 38.2; (e) insurance policies that provide payments when an insured is disabled or
34 unable to work because of illness, disease, or injury, including incidental benefits; (f) long-term care
35 insurance as defined in § 38.2-5200; (g) plans providing only limited health care services under § 38.2-
36 4300 unless offered by endorsement or rider to a group health benefit plan; (h) TRICARE supplement,
37 Medicare supplement, or workers' compensation coverages; or (i) medical expense coverage issued
38 pursuant to § 38.2-2201.

39 "Health care provider" has the same meaning ascribed to the term in § 8.01-581.1.

40 "Health care services" means items or services furnished to any individual for the purpose of
41 preventing, alleviating, curing, or healing human illness, injury, or physical disability.

42 "Health insurer" means any entity that is the issuer or sponsor of a health care policy.

43 "In-network provider" means a health care provider that is employed by or has entered into a
44 provider agreement with the health insurer that has issued the health care policy or is a participating
45 provider with such health insurer, under which agreement or conditions of participation the health care
46 provider has agreed to provide health care services to covered patients.

47 "Patient" means an individual who receives health care services from a health care provider, or
48 any person authorized by law to consent on behalf of the individual incapable of making an informed
49 decision, or, in the case of a minor child, the parent or parents having custody of the child or the child's
50 legal guardian, or as otherwise provided by law.

51 "Provider agreement" means a contract, agreement, or arrangement between a health care provider
52 and a health insurer, or a health insurer's network, provider panel, intermediary, or representative, under
53 which the health care provider has agreed to provide health care services to patients with coverage under

54 a health care policy issued by the health insurer and to accept payment from the health insurer for the
55 health care services provided.

56 B. An in-network provider that provides health care services to a covered patient shall submit its
57 claim to the health insurer for the health care services in accordance with the terms of the applicable
58 provider agreement or as permitted under applicable federal or state laws or regulations, provided that the
59 covered patient provides the in-network provider with information required by the terms of the covered
60 patient's health care policy's plan documents, including the information that is required to verify the
61 individual's coverage under the health care policy, within not fewer than 21 business days before the
62 deadline for the in-network provider to submit its claim to the health insurer as required by the terms of
63 the provider agreement. If an in-network provider does not submit its claim to the health insurer in
64 accordance with the requirements of this subsection, then (i) the covered patient shall have no obligation
65 to pay for health care services for which the in-network provider was required to submit its claim, (ii) the
66 in-network provider shall not have the benefit of the liens provided by §§ 8.01-66.2 and 8.01-66.9 with
67 regard to health care services for which the in-network provider was required to submit its claim, and (iii)
68 the in-network provider shall be prohibited from recovering payment for any of the health care services
69 for which it was required to submit its claim from an insurer providing medical expense benefits to the
70 covered patient under a policy of motor vehicle liability insurance pursuant to § 38.2-2201, by exercising
71 an assignment of the covered patient's rights to the medical expense benefits or by other means. If the in-
72 network provider submits its claim to the health insurer in accordance with the requirements of this
73 subsection, the covered patient or the health insurer shall be obligated to pay for the health care services
74 in accordance with the terms of the provider agreement or health care policy's plan documents. To the
75 extent that self-insured or self-funded plans governed by ERISA or Title XVIII of the Social Security Act,
76 42 U.S.C. § 1395 et seq. (Medicare), Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.
77 (Medicaid), or Title XXI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1397aa et seq. (CHIP) provide otherwise,
78 health care providers shall be permitted to submit claims and coordinate benefits as provided for in the
79 provider agreements or plan documents or as required under applicable federal and state laws and
80 regulations.

81 C. Any knowing violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a prohibited practice in
82 accordance with § 59.1-200 and shall be subject to any and all of the enforcement provisions of the
83 Virginia Consumer Protection Act (§ 59.1-196 et seq.).

84 **§ 59.1-200. Prohibited practices.**

85 A. The following fraudulent acts or practices committed by a supplier in connection with a
86 consumer transaction are hereby declared unlawful:

- 87 1. Misrepresenting goods or services as those of another;
- 88 2. Misrepresenting the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods or services;
- 89 3. Misrepresenting the affiliation, connection, or association of the supplier, or of the goods or
90 services, with another;
- 91 4. Misrepresenting geographic origin in connection with goods or services;
- 92 5. Misrepresenting that goods or services have certain quantities, characteristics, ingredients, uses,
93 or benefits;
- 94 6. Misrepresenting that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, grade, style, or
95 model;
- 96 7. Advertising or offering for sale goods that are used, secondhand, repossessed, defective,
97 blemished, deteriorated, or reconditioned, or that are "seconds," irregulars, imperfects, or "not first class,"
98 without clearly and unequivocally indicating in the advertisement or offer for sale that the goods are used,
99 secondhand, repossessed, defective, blemished, deteriorated, reconditioned, or are "seconds," irregulars,
100 imperfects or "not first class";
- 101 8. Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised, or with intent not to sell
102 at the price or upon the terms advertised.

103 In any action brought under this subdivision, the refusal by any person, or any employee, agent,
104 or servant thereof, to sell any goods or services advertised or offered for sale at the price or upon the terms
105 advertised or offered, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this subdivision. This paragraph shall
106 not apply when it is clearly and conspicuously stated in the advertisement or offer by which such goods
107 or services are advertised or offered for sale, that the supplier or offeror has a limited quantity or amount

108 of such goods or services for sale, and the supplier or offeror at the time of such advertisement or offer
109 did in fact have or reasonably expected to have at least such quantity or amount for sale;

110 9. Making false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, or
111 amounts of price reductions;

112 10. Misrepresenting that repairs, alterations, modifications, or services have been performed or
113 parts installed;

114 11. Misrepresenting by the use of any written or documentary material that appears to be an invoice
115 or bill for merchandise or services previously ordered;

116 12. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, using in any manner the words "wholesale,"
117 "wholesaler," "factory," or "manufacturer" in the supplier's name, or to describe the nature of the supplier's
118 business, unless the supplier is actually engaged primarily in selling at wholesale or in manufacturing the
119 goods or services advertised or offered for sale;

120 13. Using in any contract or lease any liquidated damage clause, penalty clause, or waiver of
121 defense, or attempting to collect any liquidated damages or penalties under any clause, waiver, damages,
122 or penalties that are void or unenforceable under any otherwise applicable laws of the Commonwealth, or
123 under federal statutes or regulations;

124 13a. Failing to provide to a consumer, or failing to use or include in any written document or
125 material provided to or executed by a consumer, in connection with a consumer transaction any statement,
126 disclosure, notice, or other information however characterized when the supplier is required by 16 C.F.R.
127 Part 433 to so provide, use, or include the statement, disclosure, notice, or other information in connection
128 with the consumer transaction;

129 14. Using any other deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, or misrepresentation in
130 connection with a consumer transaction;

131 15. Violating any provision of § 3.2-6509, 3.2-6512, 3.2-6513, 3.2-6513.1, 3.2-6514, 3.2-6515,
132 3.2-6516, or 3.2-6519 is a violation of this chapter;

133 16. Failing to disclose all conditions, charges, or fees relating to:

134 a. The return of goods for refund, exchange, or credit. Such disclosure shall be by means of a sign
135 attached to the goods, or placed in a conspicuous public area of the premises of the supplier, so as to be
136 readily noticeable and readable by the person obtaining the goods from the supplier. If the supplier does
137 not permit a refund, exchange, or credit for return, he shall so state on a similar sign. The provisions of
138 this subdivision shall not apply to any retail merchant who has a policy of providing, for a period of not
139 less than 20 days after date of purchase, a cash refund or credit to the purchaser's credit card account for
140 the return of defective, unused, or undamaged merchandise upon presentation of proof of purchase. In the
141 case of merchandise paid for by check, the purchase shall be treated as a cash purchase and any refund
142 may be delayed for a period of 10 banking days to allow for the check to clear. This subdivision does not
143 apply to sale merchandise that is obviously distressed, out of date, post season, or otherwise reduced for
144 clearance; nor does this subdivision apply to special order purchases where the purchaser has requested
145 the supplier to order merchandise of a specific or unusual size, color, or brand not ordinarily carried in the
146 store or the store's catalog; nor shall this subdivision apply in connection with a transaction for the sale or
147 lease of motor vehicles, farm tractors, or motorcycles as defined in § 46.2-100;

148 b. A layaway agreement. Such disclosure shall be furnished to the consumer (i) in writing at the
149 time of the layaway agreement, or (ii) by means of a sign placed in a conspicuous public area of the
150 premises of the supplier, so as to be readily noticeable and readable by the consumer, or (iii) on the bill of
151 sale. Disclosure shall include the conditions, charges, or fees in the event that a consumer breaches the
152 agreement;

153 16a. Failing to provide written notice to a consumer of an existing open-end credit balance in
154 excess of \$5 (i) on an account maintained by the supplier and (ii) resulting from such consumer's
155 overpayment on such account. Suppliers shall give consumers written notice of such credit balances within
156 60 days of receiving overpayments. If the credit balance information is incorporated into statements of
157 account furnished consumers by suppliers within such 60-day period, no separate or additional notice is
158 required;

- 159 17. If a supplier enters into a written agreement with a consumer to resolve a dispute that arises in
160 connection with a consumer transaction, failing to adhere to the terms and conditions of such an
161 agreement;
- 162 18. Violating any provision of the Virginia Health Club Act, Chapter 24 (§ 59.1-294 et seq.);
- 163 19. Violating any provision of the Virginia Home Solicitation Sales Act, Chapter 2.1 (§ 59.1-21.1
164 et seq.);
- 165 20. Violating any provision of the Automobile Repair Facilities Act, Chapter 17.1 (§ 59.1-207.1
166 et seq.);
- 167 21. Violating any provision of the Virginia Lease-Purchase Agreement Act, Chapter 17.4 (§ 59.1-
168 207.17 et seq.);
- 169 22. Violating any provision of the Prizes and Gifts Act, Chapter 31 (§ 59.1-415 et seq.);
- 170 23. Violating any provision of the Virginia Public Telephone Information Act, Chapter 32 (§ 59.1-
171 424 et seq.);
- 172 24. Violating any provision of § 54.1-1505;
- 173 25. Violating any provision of the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Warranty Adjustment Act,
174 Chapter 17.6 (§ 59.1-207.34 et seq.);
- 175 26. Violating any provision of § 3.2-5627, relating to the pricing of merchandise;
- 176 27. Violating any provision of the Pay-Per-Call Services Act, Chapter 33 (§ 59.1-429 et seq.);
- 177 28. Violating any provision of the Extended Service Contract Act, Chapter 34 (§ 59.1-435 et seq.);
- 178 29. Violating any provision of the Virginia Membership Camping Act, Chapter 25 (§ 59.1-311 et
179 seq.);
- 180 30. Violating any provision of the Comparison Price Advertising Act, Chapter 17.7 (§ 59.1-207.40
181 et seq.);
- 182 31. Violating any provision of the Virginia Travel Club Act, Chapter 36 (§ 59.1-445 et seq.);
- 183 32. Violating any provision of §§ 46.2-1231 and 46.2-1233.1;
- 184 33. Violating any provision of Chapter 40 (§ 54.1-4000 et seq.) of Title 54.1;
- 185 34. Violating any provision of Chapter 10.1 (§ 58.1-1031 et seq.) of Title 58.1;

- 186 35. Using the consumer's social security number as the consumer's account number with the
- 187 supplier, if the consumer has requested in writing that the supplier use an alternate number not associated
- 188 with the consumer's social security number;
- 189 36. Violating any provision of Chapter 18 (§ 6.2-1800 et seq.) of Title 6.2;
- 190 37. Violating any provision of § 8.01-40.2;
- 191 38. Violating any provision of Article 7 (§ 32.1-212 et seq.) of Chapter 6 of Title 32.1;
- 192 39. Violating any provision of Chapter 34.1 (§ 59.1-441.1 et seq.);
- 193 40. Violating any provision of Chapter 20 (§ 6.2-2000 et seq.) of Title 6.2;
- 194 41. Violating any provision of the Virginia Post-Disaster Anti-Price Gouging Act, Chapter 46 (§
- 195 59.1-525 et seq.);
- 196 42. Violating any provision of Chapter 47 (§ 59.1-530 et seq.);
- 197 43. Violating any provision of § 59.1-443.2;
- 198 44. Violating any provision of Chapter 48 (§ 59.1-533 et seq.);
- 199 45. Violating any provision of Chapter 25 (§ 6.2-2500 et seq.) of Title 6.2;
- 200 46. Violating the provisions of clause (i) of subsection B of § 54.1-1115;
- 201 47. Violating any provision of § 18.2-239;
- 202 48. Violating any provision of Chapter 26 (§ 59.1-336 et seq.);
- 203 49. Selling, offering for sale, or manufacturing for sale a children's product the supplier knows or
- 204 has reason to know was recalled by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. There is a rebuttable
- 205 presumption that a supplier has reason to know a children's product was recalled if notice of the recall has
- 206 been posted continuously at least 30 days before the sale, offer for sale, or manufacturing for sale on the
- 207 website of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. This prohibition does not apply to children's
- 208 products that are used, secondhand or "seconds";
- 209 50. Violating any provision of Chapter 44.1 (§ 59.1-518.1 et seq.);
- 210 51. Violating any provision of Chapter 22 (§ 6.2-2200 et seq.) of Title 6.2;
- 211 52. Violating any provision of § 8.2-317.1;
- 212 53. Violating subsection A of § 9.1-149.1;

213 54. Selling, offering for sale, or using in the construction, remodeling, or repair of any residential
214 dwelling in the Commonwealth, any drywall that the supplier knows or has reason to know is defective
215 drywall. This subdivision shall not apply to the sale or offering for sale of any building or structure in
216 which defective drywall has been permanently installed or affixed;

217 55. Engaging in fraudulent or improper or dishonest conduct as defined in § 54.1-1118 while
218 engaged in a transaction that was initiated (i) during a declared state of emergency as defined in § 44-
219 146.16 or (ii) to repair damage resulting from the event that prompted the declaration of a state of
220 emergency, regardless of whether the supplier is licensed as a contractor in the Commonwealth pursuant
221 to Chapter 11 (§ 54.1-1100 et seq.) of Title 54.1;

222 56. Violating any provision of Chapter 33.1 (§ 59.1-434.1 et seq.);

223 57. Violating any provision of § 18.2-178, 18.2-178.1, or 18.2-200.1;

224 58. Violating any provision of Chapter 17.8 (§ 59.1-207.45 et seq.);

225 59. Violating any provision of subsection E of § 32.1-126;

226 60. Violating any provision of § 54.1-111 relating to the unlicensed practice of a profession
227 licensed under Chapter 11 (§ 54.1-1100 et seq.) or Chapter 21 (§ 54.1-2100 et seq.) of Title 54.1;

228 61. Violating any provision of § 2.2-2001.5;

229 62. Violating any provision of Chapter 5.2 (§ 54.1-526 et seq.) of Title 54.1;

230 63. Violating any provision of § 6.2-312;

231 64. Violating any provision of Chapter 20.1 (§ 6.2-2026 et seq.) of Title 6.2;

232 65. Violating any provision of Chapter 26 (§ 6.2-2600 et seq.) of Title 6.2;~~and~~

233 66. Violating any provision of Chapter 54 (§ 59.1-586 et seq.); and

234 67. Knowingly violating any provision of § 8.01-27.5.

235 B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate or make unenforceable any contract or
236 lease solely by reason of the failure of such contract or lease to comply with any other law of the
237 Commonwealth or any federal statute or regulation, to the extent such other law, statute, or regulation
238 provides that a violation of such law, statute, or regulation shall not invalidate or make unenforceable such
239 contract or lease.

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