

HOUSE BILL NO. 87

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Health and Human Services

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Green)

A BILL to direct the Department of Health to convene a work group to develop recommended policies for patient testing for fentanyl.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. That the Department of Health shall convene a work group to develop recommended policies and procedures for hospitals and health care providers related to patient testing for fentanyl. The work group shall include representatives from the Medical Society of Virginia, the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Virginia Association of Health Plans, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Department of Medical Assistance Services. The work group shall consider (i) the current capabilities to screen for fentanyl, (ii) the resources required to develop capabilities to screen for fentanyl, (iii) the availability of testing materials, (iv) the medical appropriateness of drug screening for fentanyl in cases where patients present to the hospital with overdose symptoms, (v) the possibility of including testing for fentanyl in routine drug screenings conducted by hospitals, (vi) the costs associated with drug screening for fentanyl and potential sources of reimbursement, and (vii) the reporting of positive results for presence of fentanyl without the inclusion of patient-identifying information for purposes of public health and public safety. The work group shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Rehabilitation and Social Services no later than December 1, 2024.

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