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SENATE BILL NO. 187

Offered January 14, 2004

Prefiled January 13, 2004

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-2711.1, relating to Board of Dentistry regulations on dental amalgams containing mercury.

Patron—Miller

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-2711.1 as follows:

§ 54.1-2711.1. Regulations relating to dental amalgams containing mercury.

In addition to such other regulatory authority provided in this chapter, the Board of Dentistry shall promulgate, in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.), regulations for the appropriate and safe use of dental amalgams containing mercury. Such regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, information on mercury and its environmental and health hazards; the safe handling of dental amalgams containing mercury to avoid human and animal exposure to mercury; appropriate disposal of mercury amalgams and waste products to prevent mercury pollution of the environment; conditions under which amalgams containing mercury are contraindicated and are not to be used in certain patients; a requirement that each patient be given informed consent about the health and safety concerns relating to amalgams containing mercury; and a requirement that any dentist who is continuing to use dental amalgams containing mercury shall provide each of his patients with the option of receiving a dental filling other than dental amalgams containing mercury.

INTRODUCED

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