



LEGISLATION SUPPORTING SCD

The sickle cell community is a powerful force for change. Through unwavering advocacy and a shared commitment to improving lives, significant strides continue to be made in securing vital legislative support.

In 2024 VA legislation was passed to support individuals and families affected by sickle cell disease. Discover how these advancements will strengthen support and resources for individuals and families affected by sickle cell disease.

2025 LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

In June 2024 there were discussions about new legislation for 2025, but no official bills have been filed yet. Potential focus areas may include:

- * Increase funding for sickle cell clinics
- * Expanded newborn screening follow-up programs
- * Mental Health support for SCD patients
- * Workforce protections for sickle cell patients (e.g., paid sick leave, accommodations)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION SUPPORTING

SICKLE CELL DISEASE



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SB 1192 – EXPANDED CARE TO SCD TREATMENTS

Summary: This legislation expands care for advanced treatment for sickle cell patients by DMAS

Impact: Requirement by the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) to provide coverage for gene therapy and other advanced treatments for Medicaid enrollees with Sickle Cell Disease. This was a significant step in improving care for sickle cell patients in Virginia

HOW TO STAY UPDATED ON LEGISLATIVE BILLS

Virginia Legislative Information System (LIS)
Track new bills: at <https://lis.virginia.gov/>

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HB 257 – SICKLE CELL ANEMIA; PRESCRIPTION OF OPIOIDS FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT

Summary: This legislation exempts prescribers from certain requirements of the Prescription Monitoring Program when prescribing opioids for pain management related to sickle cell anemia.

Impact: Facilitates easier access to necessary pain management medications for individuals suffering from sickle cell disease, improving their quality of life.

HB 820 – SICKLE CELL DISEASE; ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEDICATION AND TREATMENT

Summary: Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to conduct an annual review of all medications and forms of treatment for sickle cell disease covered under the state plan for medical assistance services. Requires an annual report of findings and recommendations to be submitted to key legislative health committees.

Impact: Ensures ongoing evaluation and improvement of the treatments available to sickle cell patients, promoting better health outcomes.

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HB 255 – ADULT WELLNESS SCREENING FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Summary: This bill mandates that every adult in the Commonwealth may be offered screening tests for sickle cell disease or the sickle cell trait as part of their annual health examination. It also requires healthcare professionals to provide education and appropriate counseling regarding the results of any such test.

Impact: Increases early detection and awareness of sickle cell traits, which can lead to early management and prevention of complications.