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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Board of Medicine, Department of Health Professions
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	18VAC85-21
VAC Chapter title(s)	Regulations Governing Prescribing of Opioids and Buprenorphine
Action title	Exempt action to comply with HB712 of the 2026 General Assembly Session
Final agency action date	6/4/2026
Date this document prepared	6/4/2026

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

The Board will amend 18VAC85-21-130 to include language provided in HB712 of the 2026 General Assembly Session.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

The mandate for this action is [HB712](#) from the 2026 General Assembly session.

This action is exempt from the Administrative Process Act pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-4006(A)(4)(a), as this action conforms regulations to legislation following the General Assembly session.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) that the agency has “adopted final amendments” to the regulation; 3) the name of the agency taking the action; and 4) the title of the regulation. A suggested statement is, “On [insert date] the Board/Department of [insert name] adopted final amendments to the [title of regulation(s)].”

On June 4, 2026, the Board of Medicine adopted final amendments to Regulations Governing Prescribing of Opioids and Buprenorphine.