

## Virginia Legislative Update: March 20th, 2024

The three bills we have been tracking, HB 315, SB 256, and SB 138, have made significant progress in the Virginia General Assembly, all garnering approval from both the Senate and the House. In this legislative update, we shine a spotlight on the progress and amendments made to each bill, detailing the minor additions or retractions below.

### Bills:

#### 1. **SB 256: Holding Insurers Accountable**

SB 256, addressing motor vehicle insurance and remedies for bad faith refusal of claims, garnered approval from both the Senate and the House. While minor adjustments were made, its fundamental aim remains unchanged.

The phrase "up to \$500,000" was included after "in an amount double the amount of the judgment," defining the maximum limit of liability for insurance companies. Although endorsed by both chambers, SB 256 is pending further action before it can be enacted into law.

#### 2. **SB 138: Wrongful Death**

SB 138, addressing permissible venue in personal injury and wrongful death actions, advanced through the legislative process with minor modifications.

Notably, the removal of specific language to offer more flexibility in determining the location for the appointment of an administrator in such cases. With approval from both the Senate and the House, SB 138 now awaits a governor action deadline of April 8th.

#### 3. **House Bill 315: Stricter Requirements of Medicaid**

HB 315, concerning Medical Assistance Services and the lien for claims of personal injuries, passed through both chambers without any alterations. This bill aims to address issues surrounding obtaining information from the Department of Medical Assistance Services about lien amounts for closing cases. While approved by both houses, HB 315 has not yet become law.