

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2000 SESSION

CHAPTER 782

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2956.1 and 54.1-2956.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to occupational therapy.

[S 494]

Approved April 9, 2000

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 54.1-2956.1 and 54.1-2956.5 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2956.1. Powers of Board concerning occupational therapy.

The Board shall be empowered to take such actions as may be necessary to ensure the competence and integrity of any person who claims to be an occupational therapist or who holds himself out to the public as an occupational therapist *or who engages in the practice of occupational therapy*, and to that end it may license practitioners as occupational therapists.

§ 54.1-2956.5. Restriction of titles.

It shall be unlawful for any person not holding a current and valid license from the Board to claim to be an occupational therapist or to assume the title "Occupational Therapist," "Occupational Therapist, Licensed," "Licensed Occupational Therapist," or any similar term, or to assume the designations "O.T." or "O.T.L." However, a person who has graduated from a duly accredited educational program in occupational therapy ~~shall be exempt from the preceding prohibition~~ *may practice with the title "Occupational Therapist, License Applicant" or "O.T.L.-Applicant" until he has taken and received the results of any examination required by the Board or until one year from the date of graduation, whichever occurs sooner. This section shall not be construed to prohibit any person operating under the supervision of an occupational therapist pursuant to such requirements as may be imposed by the Board from claiming to practice occupational therapy or from using the title "Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant" or any variation thereof, or from assuming the designations "O.T.A." or "C.O.T.A."*