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HOUSE BILL NO. 884

Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2712.1 and 54.1-2726.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-3214.1, relating to restricted volunteer licenses for dentists, dental hygienists, and optometrists.

Patron—Phillips

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 54.1-2712.1 and 54.1-2726.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted, and the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-3214.1 as follows:

§ 54.1-2712.1. Restricted volunteer license for certain dentists.

A. The Board may issue a restricted volunteer license to a dentist who has:

1. Held the corresponding license in another state as a licensee in good standing;
2. Been sponsored and supervised by a dentist who holds an unrestricted license in the Commonwealth and who is volunteering at a Board-approved free clinic *or been sponsored by a nonprofit organization that arranges for the free, short-term, voluntary provision of health care services in underserved areas of the Commonwealth;*

3. Passed a jurisprudence examination as prescribed by the Board; *however, no jurisprudence examination shall be required of volunteer dentists who are only associated with the intermittent provision of free, short-term, voluntary health care services under the sponsorship of a nonprofit organization arranging for such services;*

4. Not failed a clinical examination within the past five years; and

5. Had at least five years of clinical practice.

B. A person holding a restricted volunteer license under this section shall:

1. Only practice in public health or community free clinics approved by the Board *or only practice on an intermittent basis to provide free, short-term, voluntary health care services under the sponsorship of a nonprofit organization arranging for such services;*

2. Only treat patients who have been screened by the approved clinic and are eligible for treatment *or patients who voluntarily seek treatment during a short-term health fair or other health care event provided in an underserved area of the Commonwealth as a result of the arrangement of such event by a nonprofit sponsoring organization;* and

3. Not receive remuneration directly or indirectly for providing dental services.

C. A dentist with a restricted volunteer license issued under this section shall only practice dentistry and perform dental procedures if (i) a dentist with an unrestricted Virginia license, volunteering at the clinic, reviews the quality of care rendered by the dentist with the restricted volunteer license at least every thirty days *or (ii) free, short-term, voluntary health care services are being provided on an intermittent basis at health care fairs or health care events arranged by a nonprofit sponsoring organization.*

D. A restricted ~~voluntary~~ volunteer license granted pursuant to this section shall expire twelve months from the date of issuance and may be renewed annually in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board. *Further, a restricted volunteer license may be granted by the Board to span the limited time necessary for a dentist to participate in a single event or a series of events for the delivery of free, short-term, voluntary health care services provided on an intermittent basis at health care fairs or health care events arranged by a nonprofit sponsoring organization.*

E. A dentist holding a restricted volunteer license issued pursuant to this section is subject to the provisions of this chapter, the regulations promulgated under this chapter, and the disciplinary regulations ~~which~~ that apply to all dentists practicing in Virginia with an unrestricted license.

§ 54.1-2726.1. Restricted volunteer license for certain dental hygienists.

A. The Board may issue a restricted volunteer license to a dental hygienist who has:

1. Held the corresponding license in another state as a licensee in good standing;
2. Passed a jurisprudence examination as prescribed by the Board; *however, no jurisprudence examination shall be required of volunteer dental hygienists who are only associated with the intermittent provision of free, short-term, voluntary health care services under the sponsorship of a nonprofit organization arranging for such services;*

3. Not failed a clinical examination within the past five years; and

4. Had at least five years of clinical practice.

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B. A person holding a restricted volunteer license under this section shall:

1. Only practice in public health or community free clinics approved by the Board pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Board *or only practice on an intermittent basis to provide free, short-term, voluntary health care services under the sponsorship of a nonprofit organization arranging for such services;*

2. Only treat patients who have been screened by the approved clinic and are eligible for treatment *or patients who voluntarily seek treatment during a short-term health fair or other health care event provided in an underserved area of the Commonwealth as a result of the arrangement of such event by a nonprofit sponsoring organization;* and

3. Not receive remuneration directly or indirectly for providing dental hygiene services.

C. A dental hygienist with a restricted volunteer license issued under this section shall only practice dental hygiene under the direction of a dentist with an unrestricted license *or under the direction of a dentist with a restricted volunteer license when such dentist is sponsored by a nonprofit organization that arranges for the free, short-term, voluntary provision of health care services in underserved areas of the Commonwealth.*

D. A restricted ~~voluntary~~ volunteer license granted pursuant to this section shall expire twelve months from the date of issuance and may be renewed annually in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board. *Further, a restricted volunteer license may be granted by the Board to span the limited time necessary for a dental hygienist to participate under the direction of a dentist with a restricted volunteer license in a single event or a series of events for the delivery of free, short-term, voluntary health care services provided on an intermittent basis at health care fairs or health care events arranged by a nonprofit sponsoring organization.*

E. A dental hygienist holding a restricted volunteer license issued pursuant to this section is subject to the provisions of this chapter, the regulations promulgated under this chapter, and the disciplinary regulations ~~which~~ *that* apply to all dental hygienists practicing in Virginia with an unrestricted license.

§ 54.1-3214.1. *Restricted volunteer license for certain optometrists.*

A. *The Board may issue a restricted volunteer license to an optometrist who has:*

1. *Held the corresponding license in another state as a licensee in good standing;*

2. *Been sponsored and supervised by an optometrist who holds an unrestricted license in the Commonwealth and who is volunteering at a Board-approved free clinic or been sponsored by a nonprofit organization that arranges for the free, short-term, voluntary provision of health care services in underserved areas of the Commonwealth;*

3. *Passed a jurisprudence examination as prescribed by the Board; however, no jurisprudence examination shall be required of volunteer optometrists who are only associated with the intermittent provision of free, short-term, voluntary health care services under the sponsorship of a nonprofit organization arranging for such services;*

4. *Not failed a clinical examination within the past five years; and*

5. *Had at least five years of clinical practice.*

B. A person holding a restricted volunteer license under this section shall:

1. Only practice in public health or community free clinics approved by the Board *or only practice on an intermittent basis to provide free, short-term, voluntary health care services under the sponsorship of a nonprofit organization arranging for such services;*

2. Only treat patients who have been screened by the approved clinic and are eligible for treatment *or patients who voluntarily seek treatment during a short-term health fair or other health care event provided in an underserved area of the Commonwealth as a result of the arrangement of such event by a nonprofit sponsoring organization;* and

3. Not receive remuneration directly or indirectly for providing optometric services.

C. An optometrist with a restricted volunteer license issued under this section shall only practice optometry if (i) an optometrist with an unrestricted Virginia license, volunteering at the clinic, reviews the quality of care rendered by the optometrist with the restricted volunteer license at least every thirty days or (ii) free, short-term, voluntary health care services are being provided on an intermittent basis at health care fairs or health care events arranged by a nonprofit sponsoring organization.

D. A restricted volunteer license granted pursuant to this section shall expire twelve months from the date of issuance and may be renewed annually in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board. *Further, a restricted volunteer license may be granted by the Board to span the limited time necessary for an optometrist to participate in a single event or a series of events for the delivery of free, short-term, voluntary health care services provided on an intermittent basis at health care fairs or health care events arranged by a nonprofit sponsoring organization.*

E. An optometrist holding a restricted volunteer license issued pursuant to this section is subject to the provisions of this chapter, the regulations promulgated under this chapter, and the disciplinary regulations that apply to all optometrists practicing in Virginia with an unrestricted license.