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HOUSE BILL NO. 921

Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2709 of the Code of Virginia, relating to licensure of dentists.

Patrons—Dickinson; Senator: Houck

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2709 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2709. License; application; qualifications; examinations.

No person shall practice dentistry unless he possesses a current valid license from the Board of Dentistry. An application for such license shall be made to the Board in writing and shall be accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant is of good moral character and a graduate of an accredited dental school or college, or dental department of a university or college.

Persons who have practiced dentistry in ~~another~~ *any foreign* country may submit an application to practice dentistry in Virginia if they have practiced dentistry in ~~the other~~ *such* country for five consecutive years prior to application ~~or have passed a nationally recognized competency exam within five years prior to application~~ and if the application is accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant is a graduate of an approved dental school or college, or dental department of a university or college. The Board shall determine what constitutes an approved *competency exam*, dental school, college, or dental department of a university.

The Board shall grant a license to practice dentistry to all eligible applicants whose performance on the examination is satisfactory, as determined by the Board.

Examinations shall test the qualifications of the applicant to practice dentistry. Within thirty days of the examination, each applicant shall be notified of his performance.

The Board shall provide for an inactive license for those dentists who have been fully licensed in the Commonwealth and do not wish to practice in Virginia. No person shall practice in Virginia unless he holds a current, active license. The Board shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, including requirements for remedial education to activate a license.

~~The Board shall promulgate regulations to be effective in 280 days or less of the enactment of this provision.~~

2. That the Board shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act to be effective within 280 days of its enactment, and that such regulations shall include all foreign countries as well as possessions and territories of the United States.

INTRODUCED

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