

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2004 SESSION

CHAPTER 137

An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2729 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Board of Dentistry; continuing education for dental hygienists.

[H 524]

Approved March 15, 2004

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2729 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2729. Continuing education.

A. The Board shall promulgate regulations governing continuing requirements for dental hygienists licensed pursuant to this article. Such regulations shall require the completion of ~~fifteen hours annually~~ in continuing education courses for any license renewal or reinstatement after April 1, 1995. The Board may grant exemptions from these continuing education requirements.

B. The Board shall approve continuing education courses that are directly related to the practice of dental hygiene and the treatment and care of patients. Any licensed hospital, institution of higher education, or national, state, or local health, medical, dental or dental hygiene organization, or individuals thereof may submit applications to the Board for approval as a provider of continuing education courses satisfying the requirements of the Board's regulations. Approved course providers must register continuing education courses with the Board pursuant to Board regulations. Only courses approved by the Board or offered by an approved provider may be designated as qualifying for continuing education course credit.

C. All course providers shall furnish written certification to dental hygienists indicating the satisfactory completion of an approved continuing education course. Each course provider shall retain records of all persons attending and those persons satisfactorily completing such continuing education courses for a period of four years following each course. Applicants for renewal or reinstatement of licenses issued pursuant to this article shall retain for a period of four years the written certification issued by a course provider. The Board may require course providers and licensees to submit copies of such records or certification as it deems necessary to ensure compliance with continuing education requirements.