

## 2008 SESSION

INTRODUCED

088351692

### HOUSE BILL NO. 129

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled December 20, 2007

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2903 of the Code of Virginia, relating to what constitutes medical practice.*

Patron—Purkey

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

#### **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

#### **1. That § 54.1-2903 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-2903. What constitutes practice.

Any person shall be regarded as practicing the healing arts who actually engages in such practice as defined in this chapter, or who opens an office for such purpose, or who advertises or announces to the public in any manner a readiness to practice or who uses in connection with his name the words or letters "Doctor," "Dr.," "M.D.," "D.O.," "D.P.M.," "D.C.," "Healer," "*Physician*," or any other title, word, letter or designation intending to designate or imply that he is a practitioner of the healing arts or that he is able to heal, cure or relieve those suffering from any injury, deformity or disease. No person regulated under this chapter shall use the title "Doctor" or the abbreviation "Dr." in writing or in advertising in connection with his practice unless he simultaneously uses a clarifying title, initials, abbreviation or designation or language that identifies the type of practice for which he is licensed. *No person shall knowingly represent themselves as being a physician in signage or advertising unless such person has received a degree as a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy.*

Signing a birth or death certificate, or signing any statement certifying that the person so signing has rendered professional service to the sick or injured, or signing or issuing a prescription for drugs or other remedial agents, shall be prima facie evidence that the person signing or issuing such writing is practicing the healing arts within the meaning of this chapter except where persons other than physicians are required to sign birth certificates.

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