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HOUSE BILL NO. 723

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the definition of the practice of podiatry.

Patrons—Peace, Garrett and Hugo

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 54.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-2900. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Acupuncturist" means individuals approved by the Board to practice acupuncture. This is limited to "licensed acupuncturist" which means an individual other than a doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic or podiatry who has successfully completed the requirements for licensure established by the Board (approved titles are limited to: Licensed Acupuncturist, Lic.Ac., and L.Ac.).

"Auricular acupuncture" means the subcutaneous insertion of sterile, disposable acupuncture needles in predetermined, bilateral locations in the outer ear when used exclusively and specifically in the context of a chemical dependency treatment program.

"Board" means the Board of Medicine.

"Healing arts" means the arts and sciences dealing with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure or alleviation of human physical or mental ailments, conditions, diseases, pain or infirmities.

"Medical malpractice judgment" means any final order of any court entering judgment against a licensee of the Board that arises out of any tort action or breach of contract action for personal injuries or wrongful death, based on health care or professional services rendered, or that should have been rendered, by a health care provider, to a patient.

"Medical malpractice settlement" means any written agreement and release entered into by or on behalf of a licensee of the Board in response to a written claim for money damages that arises out of any personal injuries or wrongful death, based on health care or professional services rendered, or that should have been rendered, by a health care provider, to a patient.

"Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual who has met the requirements of the Board for licensure and who works under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist to assist in the practice of occupational therapy.

"Physician assistant" means an individual who has met the requirements of the Board for licensure and who works under the supervision of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry.

"Practice of acupuncture" means the stimulation of certain points on or near the surface of the body by the insertion of needles to prevent or modify the perception of pain or to normalize physiological functions, including pain control, for the treatment of certain ailments or conditions of the body and includes the techniques of electroacupuncture, cupping and moxibustion. The practice of acupuncture does not include the use of physical therapy, chiropractic, or osteopathic manipulative techniques; the use or prescribing of any drugs, medications, serums or vaccines; or the procedure of auricular acupuncture as exempted in § 54.1-2901 when used in the context of a chemical dependency treatment program for patients eligible for federal, state or local public funds by an employee of the program who is trained and approved by the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association or an equivalent certifying body.

"Practice of athletic training" means the prevention, recognition, evaluation, and treatment of injuries or conditions related to athletic or recreational activity that requires physical skill and utilizes strength, power, endurance, speed, flexibility, range of motion or agility or a substantially similar injury or condition resulting from occupational activity immediately upon the onset of such injury or condition; and subsequent treatment and rehabilitation of such injuries or conditions under the direction of a licensed physical therapist and the patient's physician or under the direction of any doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, podiatry, or dentistry, while using heat, light, sound, cold, electricity, exercise or mechanical or other devices.

"Practice of chiropractic" means the adjustment of the 24 movable vertebrae of the spinal column, and assisting nature for the purpose of normalizing the transmission of nerve energy, but does not include the use of surgery, obstetrics, osteopathy or the administration or prescribing of any drugs, medicines, serums or vaccines.

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59 "Practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine" means the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of
60 human physical or mental ailments, conditions, diseases, pain or infirmities by any means or method.

61 "Practice of occupational therapy" means the evaluation, analysis, assessment, and delivery of
62 education and training in activities of daily living (ADL); the design, fabrication, and application of
63 orthoses (splints); guidance in the selection and use of adaptive equipment; therapeutic activities to
64 enhance functional performance; prevocational evaluation and training; and consultation concerning the
65 adaptation of physical environments for individuals who have disabilities.

66 "Practice of podiatry" means the *diagnosis and* medical, mechanical and surgical treatment of the
67 ailments of the human foot and ankle, but does not include amputation of the foot proximal to the
68 transmetatarsal level through the metatarsal shafts. Amputations proximal to the metatarsal-phalangeal
69 joints may only be performed in a hospital or ambulatory surgery facility accredited by an organization
70 listed in § 54.1-2939. The Board of Medicine shall determine whether a specific type of treatment of the
71 foot and ankle is within the scope of practice of podiatry.

72 "Practice of radiologic technology" means the application of x-rays to human beings for diagnostic or
73 therapeutic purposes.

74 "Practice of respiratory care" means the (i) administration of pharmacological, diagnostic, and
75 therapeutic agents related to respiratory care procedures necessary to implement a treatment, disease
76 prevention, pulmonary rehabilitative, or diagnostic regimen prescribed by a practitioner of medicine or
77 osteopathic medicine; (ii) transcription and implementation of the written or verbal orders of a
78 practitioner of medicine or osteopathic medicine pertaining to the practice of respiratory care; (iii)
79 observation and monitoring of signs and symptoms, general behavior, general physical response to
80 respiratory care treatment and diagnostic testing, including determination of whether such signs,
81 symptoms, reactions, behavior or general physical response exhibit abnormal characteristics; and (iv)
82 implementation of respiratory care procedures, based on observed abnormalities, or appropriate reporting,
83 referral, respiratory care protocols or changes in treatment pursuant to the written or verbal orders by a
84 licensed practitioner of medicine or osteopathic medicine or the initiation of emergency procedures,
85 pursuant to the Board's regulations or as otherwise authorized by law. The practice of respiratory care
86 may be performed in any clinic, hospital, skilled nursing facility, private dwelling or other place deemed
87 appropriate by the Board in accordance with the written or verbal order of a practitioner of medicine or
88 osteopathic medicine, and shall be performed under qualified medical direction.

89 "Qualified medical direction" means, in the context of the practice of respiratory care, having readily
90 accessible to the respiratory care practitioner a licensed practitioner of medicine or osteopathic medicine
91 who has specialty training or experience in the management of acute and chronic respiratory disorders
92 and who is responsible for the quality, safety, and appropriateness of the respiratory services provided
93 by the respiratory care practitioner.

94 "Radiologic technologist" means an individual, other than a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy,
95 podiatry, or chiropractic, or a dentist licensed pursuant to Chapter 27 (§ 54.1-2700 et seq.) of this title,
96 who (i) performs, may be called upon to perform, or who is licensed to perform a comprehensive scope
97 of diagnostic radiologic procedures employing equipment which emits ionizing radiation and (ii) is
98 delegated or exercises responsibility for the operation of radiation-generating equipment, the shielding of
99 patient and staff from unnecessary radiation, the appropriate exposure of radiographs or other procedures
100 which contribute to any significant extent to the site or dosage of ionizing radiation to which a patient is
101 exposed.

102 "Radiologic technologist, limited" means an individual, other than a licensed radiologic technologist,
103 dental hygienist or person who is otherwise authorized by the Board of Dentistry under Chapter 27
104 (§ 54.1-2700 et seq.) of this title and the regulations pursuant thereto, who performs diagnostic
105 radiographic procedures employing equipment which emits ionizing radiation which is limited to specific
106 areas of the human body.

107 "Radiologist assistant" means an individual who has met the requirements of the Board for licensure
108 as an advanced-level radiologic technologist and who, under the direct supervision of a licensed doctor
109 of medicine or osteopathy specializing in the field of radiology, is authorized to (i) assess and evaluate
110 the physiological and psychological responsiveness of patients undergoing radiologic procedures; (ii)
111 evaluate image quality, make initial observations, and communicate observations to the supervising
112 radiologist; (iii) administer contrast media or other medications prescribed by the supervising radiologist;
113 and (iv) perform, or assist the supervising radiologist to perform, any other procedure consistent with the
114 guidelines adopted by the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic
115 Technologists, and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

116 "Respiratory care" means the practice of the allied health profession responsible for the direct and
117 indirect services, including inhalation therapy and respiratory therapy, in the treatment, management,
118 diagnostic testing, control and care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities associated with the
119 cardiopulmonary system under qualified medical direction.

120 **2. That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2011 Session**

121 of the General Assembly.