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HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

Offered January 20, 2012

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2515 of the Code of Virginia, relating to impaired health care providers.

Patron—Jones

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 54.1-2515 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2515. Definitions.

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

"Committee" means the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program Committee as described in § 54.1-2517.

"Contract" means a written agreement between a practitioner and the Committee providing the terms and conditions of program participation or a written agreement entered into by the Director for the implementation of monitoring services.

"Disciplinary action" means any proceeding which may lead to a monetary penalty, probation, or to reprimand, restriction, revocation, suspension, denial or other order relating to the license, certificate, registration or multistate privilege of a health care practitioner issued by a health regulatory board.

"Impairment" means a physical, ~~or~~ mental, *psychological or behavioral* disability, including, but not limited to substance abuse, that substantially alters the ability of a practitioner to practice his profession with safety to his patients and the public.

"Practitioner" means any individual regulated by any health regulatory board listed in § 54.1-2503.

2. That for the purposes of entry by a health care practitioner into the program created pursuant to § 54.1-2516 of the Code of Virginia, the Director of the Department of Health Professions shall deem the term "impairment" to include mismanagement of countertransference.