

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-3503 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Board of Counseling;*  
3 *qualifications.*

4 [H 2177]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 54.1-3503 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 54.1-3503. Board of Counseling.**9 The Board of Counseling shall regulate the practice of counseling, substance abuse treatment, and  
10 marriage and family therapy.

11 The Board shall consist of ~~fourteen~~ 14 members. Twelve shall be professionals licensed in Virginia,  
12 who shall represent the various specialties recognized in the profession, and two shall be citizen  
13 members. Of the ~~twelve~~ 12 professional members, ~~eight~~ six shall be professional counselors, ~~two~~ three  
14 shall be marriage and family therapists *clinical fellows of the American Association for Marriage and*  
15 *Family Therapy*, and ~~two~~ three shall be licensed substance abuse treatment practitioners. The  
16 professional members of the Board shall include two full-time faculty members engaged in teaching  
17 counseling, substance abuse treatment or marriage and family therapy in an accredited college or  
18 university in this Commonwealth, and two professional counselors engaged in full-time private practice.  
19 However, the marriage and family therapists initially appointed to the Board shall not be required to be  
20 licensed, shall not be licensed by another board in the Department of Health Professions, and shall be  
21 clinical members of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. The licensed substance  
22 abuse treatment practitioners initially appointed to the Board shall not be required to be licensed, shall  
23 not be licensed by another board in the Department of Health Professions, shall be active members of  
24 the Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors and shall have a master's degree in  
25 substance abuse or a substantially equivalent master's degree. *At least two members representing each*  
26 *specialty shall have been in active practice for at least four years.*

27 The terms of the members of the Board shall be four years.

28 **2. Nothing in this act shall affect the term of any member appointed to the Board of Counseling**  
29 **prior to July 1, 2013.**

ENROLLED

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