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**SENATE BILL NO. 203**

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled January 3, 2014

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-2956.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to occupational therapy; practice as therapist applicant or therapist assistant applicant.*

Patron—Carrico

Referred to Committee on Education and Health

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

**1. That § 54.1-2956.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 54.1-2956.5. Unlawful to practice occupational therapy without license.**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person not holding a current and valid license from the Board to practice occupational therapy or to claim to be an occupational therapist or to assume the title "Occupational Therapist," "Occupational Therapist, Licensed," "Licensed Occupational Therapist," or any similar term, or to use the designations "O.T." or "O.T.L." or any variation thereof. However, a person who has graduated from a duly accredited educational program in occupational therapy may practice with the title "Occupational Therapist, License Applicant" or "O.T.L.-Applicant" until he has ~~taken and~~ received ~~the results of a failing score on~~ any examination required by the Board or until six months from the date of graduation, whichever occurs sooner.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to practice as an occupational therapy assistant as defined in § 54.1-2900 or to hold himself out to be or advertise that he is an occupational therapy assistant or use the designation "O.T.A." or any variation thereof unless such person holds a current and valid license from the Board to practice as an occupational therapy assistant. However, a person who has graduated from a duly accredited occupational therapy assistant education program may practice with the title "Occupational Therapy Assistant-, License Applicant" or "O.T.A.-Applicant" until he has ~~taken and~~ received ~~the results of a failing score on~~ any examination required by the Board or until six months from the date of graduation, whichever occurs sooner.

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