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HOUSE BILL NO. 697

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 9, 2018

A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-3506 of the Code of Virginia, relating to licensure of professional counselors; requirements for licensure; supervision.

Patron—Miyares

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 54.1-3506 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 54.1-3506. License required.**

A. In order to engage in the practice of counseling or marriage and family therapy or in the independent practice of substance abuse treatment, as defined in this chapter, it shall be necessary to hold a license issued by the Board.

B. *An applicant for a license as a professional counselor shall submit evidence, satisfactory to the Board, that he has met all requirements of the Board related to education and experience as the Board may require. Such requirements shall include requirements related to practice with supervision in fulfillment of residency requirements, but shall not include a requirement for more than 2,400 hours of supervision.*

C. The Board may issue a license, without examination, for the practice of marriage and family therapy or the independent practice of substance abuse treatment to persons who hold a current and unrestricted license as a professional counselor within the Commonwealth and who meet the clinical and academic requirements for licensure as a marriage and family therapist or licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner, respectively. The applicant for such license shall present satisfactory evidence of qualifications equal to those required of applicants for licensure as marriage and family therapists or licensed substance abuse treatment practitioners, respectively, by examination in the Commonwealth.

D. Any person who renders substance abuse treatment services as defined in this chapter and who is not licensed to do so, other than a person who is exempt pursuant to § 54.1-3501, shall render such services only when he is (i) under the supervision and direction of a person licensed under this chapter who shall be responsible for the services performed by such unlicensed person, or (ii) in compliance with the regulations governing an organization or a facility licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

INTRODUCED

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