

20101580D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1121

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-3029 of the Code of Virginia, relating to massage therapists; qualifications; license.*

Patrons—Robinson and Adams, D.M.

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 54.1-3029 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 54.1-3029. Qualifications for a licensed massage therapist.**

A. In order to be licensed as a massage therapist, the applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:

1. Is at least 18 years old;

2. Has successfully completed a ~~minimum of 500 hours of training from~~ a massage therapy educational program; ~~that required a minimum of 500 hours of training. The massage therapy educational program shall be~~ certified or approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia or an agency in another state, the District of Columbia, or a United States territory that approves educational programs, notwithstanding the provisions of § 23.1-226;

3. Has passed ~~an English version of~~ the Licensing Examination of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards or an examination deemed acceptable to the Board of Nursing; and

4. Has not committed any acts or omissions that would be grounds for disciplinary action or denial of licensure as set forth in this chapter.

B. The Board may issue a provisional license to an applicant prior to passing the Licensing Examination of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards for such time and in such manner as prescribed by the Board. No more than one provisional license shall be issued to any applicant.

C. The Board may license without examination any applicant who is licensed as a massage therapist in another state, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory, or another country, and, in the opinion of the Board, meets the requirements for licensed massage therapists in the Commonwealth.

D. *An applicant who completed a massage therapy educational program in a foreign country may apply for licensure as a massage therapist upon submission of evidence, satisfactory to the Board, that the applicant:*

1. Is at least 18 years old;

2. Has successfully completed a massage therapy educational program in a foreign country that is comparable to a massage therapy educational program required for licensure by the Board including evidence provided by an agency that evaluates credentials for persons who have studied outside the United States and who require a statement of educational equivalency; and

3. Has not committed any acts or omissions that would be grounds for disciplinary action or denial of licensure as set forth in this chapter.

The Board shall issue a license to an applicant who meets the requirements in this subsection upon submission by the applicant of evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has completed an English version of the Licensing Examination of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards or a comparable examination deemed acceptable to the Board.

INTRODUCED

HB1121