

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1995 SESSION

CHAPTER 391

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 54.1 a chapter numbered 27.1, consisting of sections numbered 54.1-2730 and 54.1-2731, relating to use of the terms dietitian or nutritionist; penalty.

[H 2191]

Approved March 18, 1995

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 54.1 a chapter numbered 27.1, consisting of sections numbered 54.1-2730 and 54.1-2731, as follows:

CHAPTER 27.1.

DIETITIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS.

§ 54.1-2730. Scope of chapter.

Nothing in this chapter shall preclude or affect in any fashion the ability of any person to provide any assessment, evaluation, advice, counseling, information or services of any nature that are otherwise allowed by law, whether or not such services are provided in connection with the marketing and sale of products.

§ 54.1-2731. Prohibited terms; penalty.

A. No person shall hold himself out to be or advertise or permit to be advertised that such person is a dietitian or nutritionist unless such person:

1. Has (i) received a baccalaureate or higher degree in nutritional sciences, community nutrition, public health nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics or human nutrition from a regionally accredited college or university and (ii) satisfactorily completed a program of supervised clinical experience approved by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association;

2. Has active registration through the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association;

3. Has an active certificate of the Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists by the Board of Nutrition Specialists;

4. Has an active accreditation by the Diplomats or Fellows of the American Board of Nutrition;

5. Has a current license or certificate as a dietitian or nutritionist issued by another state; or

6. Has the minimum requisite education, training and experience determined by the Board of Health Professions appropriate for such person to hold himself out to be, or advertise or allow himself to be advertised as, a dietitian or nutritionist.

The restrictions of this section apply to the use of the terms "dietitian" and "nutritionist" as used alone or in any combination with the terms "licensed," "certified," or "registered," as those terms also imply a minimum level of education, training and competence.

B. Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.