

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1997 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 855

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 54.1-2709 and 54.1-2722 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the licensure of dentists and dental hygienists.

[H 2210]

Approved April 2, 1997

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 54.1-2709 and 54.1-2722 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 54.1-2709. License; application; qualifications; examinations.

No person shall practice dentistry unless he possesses a current valid license from the Board of Dentistry. An application for such license shall be made to the Board in writing and shall be accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant is of good moral character and a graduate of an accredited dental school or college, or dental department of a university or college.

Persons who have practiced dentistry in another country may submit an application to practice dentistry in Virginia if they have practiced dentistry in the other country for five consecutive years prior to application and if the application is accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant is a graduate of an approved dental school or college, or dental department of a university or college. The Board shall determine what constitutes an approved dental school, college, or dental department of a university.

The Board shall grant a license to practice dentistry to all eligible applicants whose performance on the examination is satisfactory, as determined by the Board.

Examinations shall test the qualifications of the applicant to practice dentistry. Within thirty days of the examination, each applicant shall be notified of his performance.

The Board shall provide for an inactive license for those dentists who have been fully licensed in the Commonwealth and do not wish to practice in Virginia. No person shall practice in Virginia unless he holds a current, active license. The Board shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, including requirements for remedial education to activate a license.

The Board shall promulgate regulations to be effective in 280 days or less of the enactment of this provision.

§ 54.1-2722. License; application; qualifications; practice of dental hygiene.

No person shall practice dental hygiene unless he possesses a valid license from the Board of Dentistry. The licensee shall have the right to practice dental hygiene in this Commonwealth for the period of his license as set by the Board, under the direction of any licensed dentist.

An application for such license shall be made to the Board in writing, and shall be accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant is of good moral character and a graduate of an accredited dental hygiene program approved by the Board and offered by an accredited institution of higher education.

A licensed dental hygienist may, under the direction of a licensed dentist and subject to the regulations of the Board, perform services which are educational, diagnostic, therapeutic, or preventive. These services shall not include the establishment of a final diagnosis or treatment plan for a dental patient.

The Board shall grant a license to practice dental hygiene to all eligible applicants whose performance on the examination is satisfactory as determined by the Board.

Examinations shall test the qualifications of the applicant to practice dental hygiene. Within thirty days of the examination, each applicant shall be notified of his performance.

The Board shall provide for an inactive license for those dental hygienists who have been fully licensed in the Commonwealth and do not wish to practice in Virginia. No person shall practice in Virginia unless he holds a current, active license. The Board shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, including requirements for remedial education to activate a license.

The Board shall promulgate regulations to be effective in 280 days or less of the enactment of this provision.