

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-3029 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Department of Health*  
3 *Professions; certification of massage therapists.*

4 [H 2001]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 54.1-3029 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 54.1-3029. Qualifications for a certified massage therapist.

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

11 1. Is at least 18 years old;

12 2. Has successfully completed a minimum of 500 hours of training from ~~an education~~ a massage  
13 therapy program, having received programmatic approval from the Virginia Board of Education,  
14 Division of Proprietary Schools, or certified or approved by the Virginia Board of Education, Division  
15 of Proprietary Schools; the State Council of Higher Education; or an agency in another state, the  
16 District of Columbia or a United States territory which approves educational programs, notwithstanding  
17 the provisions of § 22.1-320;18 3. Has passed the National Certification Exam for *Therapeutic* Massage and Bodywork ~~and has~~  
19 ~~current~~ or an exam deemed acceptable to the Board of Nursing leading to national certification; and20 4. Has not committed any acts or omissions that would be grounds for disciplinary action or denial  
21 of certification as set forth in this chapter.22 B. The Board may certify any applicant who has been practicing massage therapy for up to ten years  
23 prior to July 1, 1997, and has completed at least 200 hours of training in an education program. *Such*  
24 *programs may be, but shall not be required to be,* certified or approved by the Virginia Board of  
25 Education, Division of Proprietary Schools; the State Council of Higher Education; or an agency in  
26 another state, the District of Columbia or a United States territory which approves educational  
27 programs, or has been in practice for ten years or more prior to July 1, 1997, and has completed 20  
28 hours of such training; or has passed the National Certification Exam for *Therapeutic* Massage and  
29 Bodywork prior to 1994.30 C. The Board may issue a provisional certification to an applicant prior to passing the National  
31 Certification Exam for *Therapeutic* Massage and Bodywork for such time and in such manner as  
32 prescribed by the Board. No more than one provisional certification shall be issued to any applicant.33 D. The Board may certify without examination any applicant who is licensed or certified as a  
34 massage therapist in another state, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory, or  
35 another country, and, in the opinion of the Board, meets the requirements for certified massage  
36 therapists in this Commonwealth.

ENROLLED

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