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HOUSE BILL NO. 1384

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled November 10, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-120, relating to Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; licensure by apprenticeship.*

Patrons—Fowler, Avoli, Kory, Walker and Williams; Senators: Chase, Ruff and Stanley

Referred to Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-120 as follows:

§ 54.1-120. Licensure by apprenticeship.

A. As used in this section:

"Apprenticeship" means an apprenticeship program that meets the federal labor standards for the registration of apprenticeship programs pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 29.1 et seq.

"Board" means any regulatory board within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

"License" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other evidence of qualification that an individual is required to obtain before engaging in an occupation or presenting himself as a member of a profession.

"Scope of practice" means the procedures, actions, processes, and work that an individual may perform under a board-issued license.

B. The board shall grant a license to an applicant for licensure by apprenticeship if the applicant has (i) completed an apprenticeship in an occupation that is regulated by such board, and such board grants licensure to individuals in such occupation or an occupation with a similar scope of practice; (ii) passed all requisite examinations; and (iii) paid all applicable fees, as determined by the board.

C. No board shall:

1. Require an applicant for licensure by apprenticeship to complete an apprenticeship for a duration of time greater than the minimum required by federal law;

2. Require an applicant for licensure by apprenticeship to pass an examination unless such requirement is also imposed on other types of applicants;

3. Require an applicant for licensure by apprenticeship to receive a score on any examination higher than the score required to be received by other types of applicants;

4. Require an applicant for licensure by apprenticeship to pay a licensing fee unless it also requires other types of applicants to pay a licensing fee; or

5. Impose on an applicant for licensure by apprenticeship a licensing fee greater than the licensing fee imposed on other types of applicants.

D. Except for any provision of law related to specific qualifications for an occupation or profession, a license issued pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same provisions of law governing such occupation or profession.

E. A board shall amend existing regulations or adopt new regulations necessary for the implementation of this section pursuant to § 54.1-103.

2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2024.

INTRODUCED

HB1384