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SENATE BILL NO. 1213

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 10, 2023

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-205, relating to Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation; universal license recognition.*

Patrons—McDougle, Hackworth, Cosgrove, Dunnivant, Reeves, Ruff, Stuart and Vogel

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 2 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-205 as follows:

§ 54.1-205. Universal license recognition.

A. *The regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation shall, upon application by an individual, recognize licenses or certificates issued by another state as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure or government certification in the Commonwealth if the following conditions are met:*

1. *The individual holds a current and valid occupational license or government certification in another state in an occupation with a similar scope of practice, as determined by the board in the Commonwealth;*

2. *The individual has held the occupational license or government certification in the other state for at least three years;*

3. *The board in the other state or state of original licensure required the individual to pass an examination and to meet certain standards related to education, training, or experience;*

4. *The board in the other state holds the individual in good standing;*

5. *The individual does not have a disqualifying criminal record under state law, as determined by the board in the Commonwealth in accordance with § 54.1-204;*

6. *No board in another state imposed discipline on the license, except for discipline involving only a financial penalty and no harm to the health or economic well-being of the public; and*

7. *The individual pays all applicable fees.*

B. *The regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation and the Department of Health Professions shall, upon application by an individual, recognize work experience in another state as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure or government certification in the Commonwealth if the following conditions are met:*

1. *The individual worked in another state that does not use an occupational license or government certification to regulate an occupation, but the Commonwealth uses an occupational license or government certification to regulate an occupation with a similar scope of practice, as determined by the board;*

2. *The individual has worked in the occupation at least three years;*

3. *The individual passes any examination required by the board of applicants for licensure or certification; and*

4. *The individual satisfies the conditions outlined in subdivisions A 5, 6, and 7.*

C. *The regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation may require an individual seeking an occupational licensure or government certification pursuant to this section to pass a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant state laws and administrative rules that regulate such occupation if such an examination is required of other applicants for the same license or certification.*

D. *For purposes of this section, "other state" or "another state" means any state, territory, possession, or jurisdiction of the United States.*

INTRODUCED

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