

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to direct the boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to develop*
3 *regulations to provide a pathway to licensure for individuals with equivalent qualifications from another*
4 *country.*

5 [H 1940]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. § 1.** *That the regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (the*
9 *Department) shall develop regulations to provide a pathway to licensure or certification for individuals with*
10 *equivalent qualifications from another country. Such regulations shall include the following requirements*
11 *for issuing a license or certification:*

12 *1. Applicants shall provide documentation demonstrating (i) United States citizenship, (ii) permanent*
13 *residency, or (iii) a valid work visa along with proof that the applicant has submitted a petition for*
14 *permanent residency status;*

15 *2. The regulatory boards within the Department shall include a method for awarding partial or full credit*
16 *toward any training and education requirements;*

17 *3. The regulatory boards within the Department may use professional credential verification services; and*

18 *4. The regulatory boards within the Department may only issue a license or certification pursuant to such*
19 *regulations upon receipt of satisfactory documentation of the requisite education, training, and proof of*
20 *licensure in accordance with board standards and requirements, or any other criteria the board deems*
21 *necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.*

22 **§ 2.** *The regulatory boards within the Department shall ensure that applicants that are licensed in*
23 *accordance with the regulations promulgated pursuant to this act are subject to the same examination*
24 *requirements as other applicants for initial licensure in a given profession or occupation.*