

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 23.1 a section numbered*
3 *23.1-903.5, relating to certain practical nursing programs; common curriculum; transferability to*
4 *registered nursing programs; pathway of stackable credentials.*

5 [H 2548]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 9 of Title 23.1 a section**
9 **numbered 23.1-903.5 as follows:**10 **§ 23.1-903.5. *Certain practical nursing programs; common curriculum; transferability to registered***
11 ***nursing programs; pathway of stackable credentials.***12 *A. The System, in consultation with the Council, the Board of Nursing, and representatives from*
13 *associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education that offer nursing programs, shall develop a*
14 *common curriculum for practical nursing programs that shall be implemented at each comprehensive*
15 *community college in the System that offers a practical nursing program. Such common curriculum shall, to*
16 *the extent possible, (i) align with the degree requirements for registered nursing programs offered at*
17 *associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education and (ii) be transferable to each registered*
18 *nursing program offered at an associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education.*19 *B. Each associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education that offers a registered nursing*
20 *degree program shall participate in a practical nursing program to registered nursing program transfer*
21 *agreement with the System that aligns with the practical nursing program common curriculum established*
22 *pursuant to this section. Any baccalaureate public institution of higher education that offers a nursing*
23 *program and any private institution of higher education that offers a registered nursing degree program may*
24 *also be consulted regarding and participate on a voluntary basis in such a transfer agreement.*25 *C. In addition to the common curriculum established pursuant to subsection A and the transfer agreement*
26 *established pursuant to subsection B, the System, the Council, and any baccalaureate public institution of*
27 *higher education that offers a nursing program shall establish a pathway of stackable nursing credentials*
28 *that consists of a practical nursing to associate registered nursing to bachelor of science in nursing program*
29 *pathway.*30 **2. That the Virginia Community College System shall develop the common curriculum for practical**
31 **nursing programs as required pursuant to subsection A of § 23.1-903.5 of the Code of Virginia, as**
32 **created by this act, no later than July 1, 2026.**33 **3. That the provisions of the first enactment of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.**34 **4. That the Virginia Community College System shall submit a progress report on the implementation**
35 **of the provisions of the first enactment of this act to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on**
36 **Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than December 1, 2025.**

ENROLLED

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