

# 2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 523**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-2001.4, 54.1-2901, and 54.1-3001 of the Code of Virginia, relating to*  
5 *Department of Veterans Services; Department of Health Professions; military medical personnel;*  
6 *program.*

7 Patron—Willett

8 Committee Referral Pending

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

10 **1. That §§ 2.2-2001.4, 54.1-2901, and 54.1-3001 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as**  
11 **follows:**

12 **§ 2.2-2001.4. Military medical personnel; program.**

13 A. For the purposes of this section, "military medical personnel" means an individual who has recently  
14 served as a medic in the United States Army, medical technician in the United States Air Force, medical  
15 personnel in the United States Space Force, or corpsman in the United States Navy or the United States Coast  
16 Guard *and any other enlisted service member who successfully completed appropriate technical training and*  
17 *any required certifications and competently practiced his military occupational specialty in the United States*  
18 *Military Health System* and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than  
19 dishonorable.

20 B. The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Health Professions, shall establish a program  
21 in which military medical personnel may practice and perform certain delegated acts that constitute the  
22 practice of medicine or nursing in accordance with subsection B of § 54.1-2901 or subsection B of  
23 § 54.1-3001. Such activities shall reflect the level of training and experience of the military medical  
24 personnel *and be supervised by a medical professional licensed by the Board of Medicine (the Board) in the*  
25 *appropriate field.* The supervising physician ~~or~~, podiatrist, *or other medical professional licensed by the*  
26 *Board shall retain responsibility for the activities within their scope of practice in the care of the patient. If*  
27 *the former service member's training and practice qualify him to practice and perform certain acts that*  
28 *constitute the practice of medicine or nursing, but he lacks the academic degree usually required for such*  
29 *employment, he may practice and perform such acts for up to three years while he completes requirements*  
30 *for the relevant degree. To facilitate this process, the Virginia Community College System, in partnership*  
31 *with the Military Medics and Corpsmen Program and the Virginia Health Workforce and Development*  
32 *Authority, shall develop procedures to facilitate the transfer or award of academic credits for completion of*  
33 *relevant military health coursework and technical training during a service member's time in service.*

34 C. Any licensed physician ~~or~~, podiatrist, *or other medical professional licensed by the Board*, professional  
35 corporation or partnership of any licensee, hospital, commercial enterprise having medical facilities for its  
36 employees that are supervised by one or more physicians ~~or~~, podiatrists, *or other medical professional*  
37 *licensed by the Board*, or facility that offers medical services to the public and that is supervised by one or  
38 more physicians ~~or~~, podiatrists, *or other medical professional licensed by the Board* may participate in such  
39 program.

40 D. The Department shall establish general requirements for military medical personnel, licensees, and  
41 employers participating in the military medical personnel program established pursuant to subsection B.

42 E. The Department shall assist veterans and other service members who are preparing for discharge or  
43 release and who ~~have recently served in~~ *express an interest in serving in a health care-related specialties*  
44 *specialty* but who do not meet the definition of "military medical personnel" ~~in finding employment in the~~  
45 ~~health care sector to identify opportunities to complete the required education or technical training required~~  
46 ~~to secure employment in the health care sector.~~

47 **§ 54.1-2901. Exceptions and exemptions generally.**

48 A. The provisions of this chapter shall not prevent or prohibit:

49 1. Any person entitled to practice his profession under any prior law on June 24, 1944, from continuing  
50 such practice within the scope of the definition of his particular school of practice;

51 2. Any person licensed to practice naturopathy prior to June 30, 1980, from continuing such practice in  
52 accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board;

53 3. Any licensed advanced practice registered nurse from rendering care in accordance with the provisions  
54 of §§ 54.1-2957 and 54.1-2957.01, any advanced practice registered nurse licensed by the Boards of  
55 Medicine and Nursing in the category of certified nurse midwife practicing pursuant to subsection H of  
56 § 54.1-2957, or any advanced practice registered nurse licensed by the Boards of Medicine and Nursing in the

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59 category of clinical nurse specialist practicing pursuant to subsection J of § 54.1-2957 when such services are  
60 authorized by regulations promulgated jointly by the Boards of Medicine and Nursing;

61 4. Any registered professional nurse, licensed advanced practice registered nurse, graduate laboratory  
62 technician, or other technical personnel who have been properly trained from rendering care or services  
63 within the scope of their usual professional activities which shall include the taking of blood, the giving of  
64 intravenous infusions and intravenous injections, and the insertion of tubes when performed under the orders  
65 of a person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a physician  
66 assistant;

67 5. Any dentist, pharmacist, or optometrist from rendering care or services within the scope of his usual  
68 professional activities;

69 6. Any practitioner licensed or certified by the Board from delegating to personnel supervised by him,  
70 such activities or functions as are nondiscretionary and do not require the exercise of professional judgment  
71 for their performance and which are usually or customarily delegated to such persons by practitioners of the  
72 healing arts, if such activities or functions are authorized by and performed for such practitioners of the  
73 healing arts and responsibility for such activities or functions is assumed by such practitioners of the healing  
74 arts;

75 7. The rendering of medical advice or information through telecommunications from a physician licensed  
76 to practice medicine in Virginia or an adjoining state, or from a licensed advanced practice registered nurse,  
77 to emergency medical personnel acting in an emergency situation;

78 8. The domestic administration of family remedies;

79 9. The giving or use of massages, steam baths, dry heat rooms, infrared heat, or ultraviolet lamps in public  
80 or private health clubs and spas;

81 10. The manufacture or sale of proprietary medicines in this Commonwealth by licensed pharmacists or  
82 druggists;

83 11. The advertising or sale of commercial appliances or remedies;

84 12. The fitting by nonitinerant persons or manufacturers of artificial eyes, limbs or other apparatus or  
85 appliances or the fitting of plaster cast counterparts of deformed portions of the body by a nonitinerant  
86 bracemaker or prosthetist for the purpose of having a three-dimensional record of the deformity, when such  
87 bracemaker or prosthetist has received a prescription from a licensed physician, licensed advanced practice  
88 registered nurse, or licensed physician assistant directing the fitting of such casts and such activities are  
89 conducted in conformity with the laws of Virginia;

90 13. Any person from the rendering of first aid or medical assistance in an emergency in the absence of a  
91 person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy under the provisions of this chapter;

92 14. The practice of the religious tenets of any church in the ministration to the sick and suffering by  
93 mental or spiritual means without the use of any drug or material remedy, whether gratuitously or for  
94 compensation;

95 15. Any legally qualified out-of-state or foreign practitioner from meeting in consultation with legally  
96 licensed practitioners in this Commonwealth;

97 16. Any practitioner of the healing arts licensed or certified and in good standing with the applicable  
98 regulatory agency in another state or Canada when that practitioner of the healing arts is in Virginia  
99 temporarily and such practitioner has been issued a temporary authorization by the Board from practicing  
100 medicine or the duties of the profession for which he is licensed or certified (i) in a summer camp or in  
101 conjunction with patients who are participating in recreational activities, (ii) while participating in continuing  
102 educational programs prescribed by the Board, or (iii) by rendering at any site any health care services within  
103 the limits of his license, voluntarily and without compensation, to any patient of any clinic which is organized  
104 in whole or in part for the delivery of health care services without charge as provided in § 54.1-106;

105 17. The performance of the duties of any active duty health care provider in active service in the army,  
106 navy, coast guard, marine corps, air force, space force, or public health service of the United States at any  
107 public or private health care facility while such individual is so commissioned or serving and in accordance  
108 with his official military duties;

109 18. Any masseur, who publicly represents himself as such, from performing services within the scope of  
110 his usual professional activities and in conformance with state law;

111 19. Any person from performing services in the lawful conduct of his particular profession or business  
112 under state law;

113 20. Any person from rendering emergency care pursuant to the provisions of § 8.01-225;

114 21. Qualified emergency medical services personnel, when acting within the scope of their certification,  
115 and licensed health care practitioners, when acting within their scope of practice, from following Durable Do  
116 Not Resuscitate Orders issued in accordance with § 54.1-2987.1 and Board of Health regulations, or licensed  
117 health care practitioners from following any other written order of a physician not to resuscitate a patient in  
118 the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest;

119 22. Any commissioned or contract medical officer of the army, navy, coast guard or air force rendering  
120 services voluntarily and without compensation while deemed to be licensed pursuant to § 54.1-106;

121 23. Any person from engaging in the five needle auricular acupuncture protocol (5NP), a standardized  
 122 five needle protocol wherein up to five needles are inserted into the external human ear to provide relief from  
 123 the effects of behavioral health conditions, provided such person (i) has appropriate training in the 5NP,  
 124 including training established by the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association or equivalent  
 125 certifying body; (ii) does not use any letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is an  
 126 acupuncturist; and (iii) makes no statements implying that his practice of the 5NP is licensed, certified, or  
 127 otherwise overseen by the Commonwealth. Treatment utilizing the 5NP pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
 128 strictly limited to the insertion of disposable, sterile acupuncture needles into the ear and only in compliance  
 129 with the 5NP. The application or insertion of needles anywhere else on the body of another person by a  
 130 person acting under the provisions of this subdivision shall be considered engaging in the practice of  
 131 acupuncture without a license;

132 24. Any employee of any assisted living facility who is certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)  
 133 acting in compliance with the patient's individualized service plan and with the written order of the attending  
 134 physician not to resuscitate a patient in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest;

135 25. Any person working as a health assistant under the direction of a licensed medical or osteopathic  
 136 doctor within the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice or local correctional  
 137 facilities;

138 26. Any employee of a school board, authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of  
 139 insulin and glucagon, when, upon the authorization of a prescriber and the written request of the parents as  
 140 defined in § 22.1-1, assisting with the administration of insulin or administrating glucagon to a student  
 141 diagnosed as having diabetes and who requires insulin injections during the school day or for whom glucagon  
 142 has been prescribed for the emergency treatment of hypoglycemia;

143 27. Any practitioner of the healing arts or other profession regulated by the Board from rendering free  
 144 health care to an underserved population of Virginia who (i) does not regularly practice his profession in  
 145 Virginia, (ii) holds a current valid license or certificate to practice his profession in another state, territory,  
 146 district or possession of the United States, (iii) volunteers to provide free health care to an underserved area  
 147 of the Commonwealth under the auspices of a publicly supported all volunteer, nonprofit organization that  
 148 sponsors the provision of health care to populations of underserved people, (iv) files a copy of the license or  
 149 certification issued in such other jurisdiction with the Board, (v) notifies the Board at least five business days  
 150 prior to the voluntary provision of services of the dates and location of such service, and (vi) acknowledges,  
 151 in writing, that such licensure exemption shall only be valid, in compliance with the Board's regulations,  
 152 during the limited period that such free health care is made available through the volunteer, nonprofit  
 153 organization on the dates and at the location filed with the Board. The Board may deny the right to practice in  
 154 Virginia to any practitioner of the healing arts whose license or certificate has been previously suspended or  
 155 revoked, who has been convicted of a felony or who is otherwise found to be in violation of applicable laws  
 156 or regulations. However, the Board shall allow a practitioner of the healing arts who meets the above criteria  
 157 to provide volunteer services without prior notice for a period of up to three days, provided the nonprofit  
 158 organization verifies that the practitioner has a valid, unrestricted license in another state;

159 28. Any registered nurse, acting as an agent of the Department of Health, from obtaining specimens of  
 160 sputum or other bodily fluid from persons in whom the diagnosis of active tuberculosis disease, as defined in  
 161 § 32.1-49.1, is suspected and submitting orders for testing of such specimens to the Division of Consolidated  
 162 Laboratories or other public health laboratories, designated by the State Health Commissioner, for the  
 163 purpose of determining the presence or absence of tubercle bacilli as defined in § 32.1-49.1;

164 29. Any physician of medicine or osteopathy or advanced practice registered nurse from delegating to a  
 165 registered nurse under his supervision the screening and testing of children for elevated blood-lead levels  
 166 when such testing is conducted (i) in accordance with a written protocol between the physician or advanced  
 167 practice registered nurse and the registered nurse and (ii) in compliance with the Board of Health's  
 168 regulations promulgated pursuant to §§ 32.1-46.1 and 32.1-46.2. Any follow-up testing or treatment shall be  
 169 conducted at the direction of a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse;

170 30. Any practitioner of one of the professions regulated by the Board of Medicine who is in good standing  
 171 with the applicable regulatory agency in another state or Canada from engaging in the practice of that  
 172 profession when the practitioner is in Virginia temporarily with an out-of-state athletic team or athlete for the  
 173 duration of the athletic tournament, game, or event in which the team or athlete is competing;

174 31. Any person from performing state or federally funded health care tasks directed by the consumer,  
 175 which are typically self-performed, for an individual who lives in a private residence and who, by reason of  
 176 disability, is unable to perform such tasks but who is capable of directing the appropriate performance of such  
 177 tasks;

178 32. Any practitioner of one of the professions regulated by the Board of Medicine who is in good standing  
 179 with the applicable regulatory agency in another state from engaging in the practice of that profession in  
 180 Virginia with a patient who is being transported to or from a Virginia hospital for care;

181 33. Any doctor of medicine or osteopathy, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse who  
 182 would otherwise be subject to licensure by the Board who holds an active, unrestricted license in another

183 state, the District of Columbia, or a United States territory or possession and who is in good standing with the  
184 applicable regulatory agency in that state, the District of Columbia, or that United States territory or  
185 possession who provides behavioral health services, as defined in § 37.2-100, from engaging in the practice  
186 of his profession and providing behavioral health services to a patient located in the Commonwealth in  
187 accordance with the standard of care when (i) such practice is for the purpose of providing continuity of care  
188 through the use of telemedicine services as defined in § 38.2-3418.16 and (ii) the practitioner has previously  
189 established a practitioner-patient relationship with the patient and has performed an in-person evaluation of  
190 the patient within the previous year. A practitioner who provides behavioral health services to a patient  
191 located in the Commonwealth through use of telemedicine services pursuant to this subdivision may provide  
192 such services for a period of no more than one year from the date on which the practitioner began providing  
193 such services to such patient;

194 34. Any employee of a program licensed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental  
195 Services who is certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation from acting in compliance with a program  
196 participant's valid written order not to resuscitate issued in accordance with § 54.1-2987.1 if such valid  
197 written order not to resuscitate is included in the program participant's individualized service plan; or

198 35. Any doctor of medicine or osteopathy, physician assistant, respiratory therapist, occupational  
199 therapist, or advanced practice registered nurse who would otherwise be subject to licensure by the Board  
200 who holds an active, unrestricted license in another state or the District of Columbia and who is in good  
201 standing with the applicable regulatory agency in that state or the District of Columbia from engaging in the  
202 practice of that profession in the Commonwealth with a patient located in the Commonwealth when (i) such  
203 practice is for the purpose of providing continuity of care through the use of telemedicine services as defined  
204 in § 38.2-3418.16 and (ii) the patient is a current patient of the practitioner with whom the practitioner has  
205 previously established a practitioner-patient relationship and the practitioner has performed an in-person  
206 examination of the patient within the previous 12 months.

207 For purposes of this subdivision, if such practitioner with whom the patient has previously established a  
208 practitioner-patient relationship is unavailable at the time in which the patient seeks continuity of care,  
209 another practitioner of the same subspecialty at the same practice group with access to the patient's treatment  
210 history may provide continuity of care using telemedicine services until the practitioner with whom the  
211 patient has a previously established practitioner-patient relationship becomes available. For the purposes of  
212 this subdivision, "practitioner of the same subspecialty" means a practitioner who utilizes the same  
213 subspecialty taxonomy code designation for claims processing.

214 For the purposes of this subdivision, if a patient is (a) an enrollee of a health maintenance organization  
215 that contracts with a multispecialty group of practitioners, each of whom is licensed by the Board of  
216 Medicine, and (b) a current patient of at least one practitioner who is a member of the multispecialty group  
217 with whom such practitioner has previously established a practitioner-patient relationship and of whom such  
218 practitioner has performed an in-person examination within the previous 12 months, the patient shall be  
219 deemed to be a current patient of each practitioner in the multispecialty group with whom each such  
220 practitioner has established a practitioner-patient relationship.

221 B. Notwithstanding any provision of law or regulation to the contrary, military medical personnel, as  
222 defined in § 2.2-2001.4, while participating in a program established by the Department of Veterans Services  
223 pursuant to § 2.2-2001.4, may practice under the supervision of a licensed physician or podiatrist *or other*  
224 *medical professional licensed by the Board* or the chief medical officer of an organization participating in  
225 such program, or his designee who is a licensee of the Board and supervising within his scope of practice.

#### 226 § 54.1-3001. Exemptions.

227 A. This chapter shall not apply to the following:

228 1. The furnishing of nursing assistance in an emergency;

229 2. The practice of nursing, which is prescribed as part of a study program, by nursing students enrolled in  
230 nursing education programs approved by the Board or by graduates of approved nursing education programs  
231 for a period not to exceed ninety days following successful completion of the nursing education program  
232 pending the results of the licensing examination, provided proper application and fee for licensure have been  
233 submitted to the Board and unless the graduate fails the licensing examination within the 90-day period;

234 3. The practice of any legally qualified nurse of another state who is employed by the United States  
235 government while in the discharge of his official duties;

236 4. The practice of nursing by a nurse who holds a current unrestricted license in another state, the District  
237 of Columbia, a United States possession or territory, or who holds a current unrestricted license in Canada  
238 and whose training was obtained in a nursing school in Canada where English was the primary language, for  
239 a period of 30 days pending licensure in Virginia, if the nurse, upon employment, has furnished the employer  
240 satisfactory evidence of current licensure and submits proper application and fees to the Board for licensure  
241 before, or within 10 days after, employment. At the discretion of the Board, additional time may be allowed  
242 for nurses currently licensed in another state, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory,  
243 or Canada who are in the process of attaining the qualification for licensure in this Commonwealth;

244 5. The practice of nursing by any registered nurse who holds a current unrestricted license in another state,

245 the District of Columbia, or a United States possession or territory, or a nurse who holds an equivalent  
 246 credential in a foreign country, while enrolled in an advanced professional nursing program requiring clinical  
 247 practice. This exemption extends only to clinical practice required by the curriculum;

248 6. The practice of nursing by any nurse who holds a current unrestricted license in another state, the  
 249 District of Columbia, or a United States possession or territory and is employed to provide care to any private  
 250 individual while such private individual is traveling through or temporarily staying, as defined in the Board's  
 251 regulations, in the Commonwealth;

252 7. General care of the sick by nursing assistants, companions or domestic servants that does not constitute  
 253 the practice of nursing as defined in this chapter;

254 8. The care of the sick when done solely in connection with the practice of religious beliefs by the  
 255 adherents and which is not held out to the public to be licensed practical or professional nursing;

256 9. Any employee of a school board, authorized by a prescriber and trained in the administration of insulin  
 257 and glucagon, when, upon the authorization of a prescriber and the written request of the parents as defined in  
 258 § 22.1-1, assisting with the administration of insulin or administering glucagon to a student diagnosed as  
 259 having diabetes and who requires insulin injections during the school day or for whom glucagon has been  
 260 prescribed for the emergency treatment of hypoglycemia;

261 10. The practice of nursing by any nurse who is a graduate of a foreign nursing school and has met the  
 262 credential, language, and academic testing requirements of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing  
 263 Schools for a period not to exceed ninety days from the date of approval of an application submitted to the  
 264 Board when such nurse is working as a nonsupervisory staff nurse in a licensed nursing home or certified  
 265 nursing facility. During such ninety-day period, such nurse shall take and pass the licensing examination to  
 266 remain eligible to practice nursing in Virginia; no exemption granted under this subdivision shall be  
 267 extended;

268 11. The practice of nursing by any nurse rendering free health care to an underserved population in  
 269 Virginia who (i) does not regularly practice nursing in Virginia, (ii) holds a current valid license or  
 270 certification to practice nursing in another state, territory, district or possession of the United States, (iii)  
 271 volunteers to provide free health care to an underserved area of this Commonwealth under the auspices of a  
 272 publicly supported all volunteer, nonprofit organization that sponsors the provision of health care to  
 273 populations of underserved people, (iv) files a copy of the license or certification issued in such other  
 274 jurisdiction with the Board, (v) notifies the Board at least five business days prior to the voluntary provision  
 275 of services of the dates and location of such service, and (vi) acknowledges, in writing, that such licensure  
 276 exemption shall only be valid, in compliance with the Board's regulations, during the limited period that such  
 277 free health care is made available through the volunteer, nonprofit organization on the dates and at the  
 278 location filed with the Board. The Board may deny the right to practice in Virginia to any nurse whose  
 279 license or certificate has been previously suspended or revoked, who has been convicted of a felony or who is  
 280 otherwise found to be in violation of applicable laws or regulations. However, the Board shall allow a nurse  
 281 who meets the above criteria to provide volunteer services without prior notice for a period of up to three  
 282 days, provided the nonprofit organization verifies that the practitioner has a valid, unrestricted license in  
 283 another state;

284 12. Any person performing state or federally funded health care tasks directed by the consumer, which are  
 285 typically self-performed, for an individual who lives in a private residence and who, by reason of disability, is  
 286 unable to perform such tasks but who is capable of directing the appropriate performance of such tasks;

287 13. The practice of nursing by any nurse who holds a current unrestricted license from another state, the  
 288 District of Columbia or a United States possession or territory, while such nurse is in the Commonwealth  
 289 temporarily and is practicing nursing in a summer camp or in conjunction with clients who are participating  
 290 in specified recreational or educational activities;

291 14. The practice of massage therapy that is an integral part of a program of study by a student enrolled in a  
 292 massage therapy educational program under the direction of a licensed massage therapist. Any student  
 293 enrolled in a massage therapy educational program shall be identified as a "Student Massage Therapist" and  
 294 shall deliver massage therapy under the supervision of an appropriate clinical instructor recognized by the  
 295 educational program;

296 15. The practice of massage therapy by a massage therapist licensed or certified in good standing in  
 297 another state, the District of Columbia, or another country, while such massage therapist is volunteering at a  
 298 sporting or recreational event or activity, is responding to a disaster or emergency declared by the appropriate  
 299 authority, is travelling with an out-of-state athletic team or an athlete for the duration of the athletic  
 300 tournament, game, or event in which the team or athlete is competing, or is engaged in educational seminars;

301 16. Any person providing services related to the domestic care of any family member or household  
 302 member so long as that person does not offer, hold out, or claim to be a massage therapist;

303 17. Any health care professional licensed or certified under this title for which massage therapy is a  
 304 component of his practice; or

305 18. Any individual who provides stroking of the hands, feet, or ears or the use of touch, words, and

306 directed movement, including healing touch, therapeutic touch, mind-body centering, orthobionomy, traeger  
307 therapy, reflexology, polarity therapy, reiki, qigong, muscle activation techniques, or practices with the  
308 primary purpose of affecting energy systems of the human body.

309 B. Notwithstanding any provision of law or regulation to the contrary, military medical personnel, as  
310 defined in § 2.2-2001.4, while participating in a program established by the Department of Veterans Services  
311 pursuant to § 2.2-2001.4, may practice under the supervision of a licensed physician or podiatrist *or other*  
312 *medical professional licensed by the Board of Medicine* or the chief medical officer of an organization  
313 participating in such program. The chief medical officer of an organization participating in a program  
314 established pursuant to § 2.2-2001.4 may, in consultation with the chief nursing officer of such organization,  
315 designate a registered nurse licensed by the Board or practicing with a multistate licensure privilege to  
316 supervise military personnel participating in a program established pursuant to § 2.2-2001.4 in the practice of  
317 nursing.