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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1117**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 14, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-205 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department of Professional and*  
5 *Occupational Regulation; universal license recognition.*

6 Patron—Nivar

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 54.1-205 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 54.1-205. Universal license recognition.**

11 A. For purposes of this section:

12 "Another state" or "other state" means any state, territory, possession, or jurisdiction of the United States.

13 "Neighboring state" means the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, or  
14 West Virginia.15 B. Except as provided in subsection D, the regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and  
16 Occupational Regulation shall, upon application by an individual, recognize licenses or certificates issued by  
17 another state as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure or government certification in the Commonwealth if  
18 the following conditions are met:19 1. The individual holds a current and valid professional or occupational license or government  
20 certification in another state in a profession or occupation with a similar scope of practice, as determined by  
21 the board in the Commonwealth;22 2. The individual has held the professional or occupational license or government certification in the other  
23 state for at least ~~three years~~ one year;24 3. The board in the other state or state of original licensure required the individual to pass an examination  
25 and to meet certain standards related to education, training, or experience;26 4. There are no pending investigations or unresolved complaints against the individual, and the board in  
27 the other state holds the individual in good standing;28 5. The individual does not have a disqualifying criminal record as determined by the board in the  
29 Commonwealth in accordance with § 54.1-204;30 6. No board in another state has imposed discipline on the licensee, except for discipline involving only a  
31 financial penalty and no harm to the health or economic well-being of the public; and

32 7. The individual pays all applicable fees.

33 C. Except as provided in subsection D, the regulatory boards within the Department of Professional and  
34 Occupational Regulation shall, upon application by an individual, recognize work experience in another state  
35 as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure or government certification in the Commonwealth if the  
36 following conditions are met:37 1. The individual worked in another state that does not use a professional or occupational license or  
38 government certification to regulate a profession or occupation, but the Commonwealth uses a professional or  
39 occupational license or government certification to regulate a profession or occupation with a similar scope of  
40 practice, as determined by the board;

41 2. The individual has worked in the profession or occupation for at least three years;

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

44 4. The individual satisfies the conditions outlined in subdivisions B 5, 6, and 7.

45 D. The Real Estate Appraiser Board, the Real Estate Board, the Board for Waste Management Facility  
46 Operators, and the Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System  
47 Professionals shall, upon application by an individual, and without examination, immediately recognize the  
48 licenses or certificates issued by a neighboring state as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure in the  
49 Commonwealth if the following conditions are met:50 1. The individual holds a current and valid professional or occupational license or government  
51 certification in a neighboring state in a profession or occupation with a similar scope of practice, as  
52 determined by the board in the Commonwealth;53 2. There are no pending investigations or unresolved complaints against the individual, and the other state  
54 holds the individual in good standing;55 3. The individual does not have a disqualifying criminal record as determined by the board in accordance  
56 with § 54.1-204; and

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59        4. No other state has imposed discipline on the licensee, except for discipline involving only a financial  
60        penalty and no harm to the health or economic well-being of the public.

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

66        F. This section shall not apply to any professional services, as defined in § 2.2-4301.