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HOUSE BILL NO. 1282

Offered January 14, 2026

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-3507.01, relating to licensed substance abuse treatment practitioners; licensure by endorsement; licensure without examination.

Patron—Cole, J.G.

Committee Referral Pending

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-3507.01 as follows:

§ 54.1-3507.01. Licensure by endorsement of licensed substance abuse treatment practitioners.

A. The Board shall establish a pathway for licensure by endorsement as a licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner for individuals who:

1. Have held certification as a certified substance abuse counselor for at least 10 years prior to the date of application and have actively practiced in the substance abuse treatment field during such period;

2. Have completed not less than five years of documented supervised experience under a professional counselor or licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner;

3. Hold at least a master's degree from an accredited institution in (i) mental health counseling, (ii) substance abuse counseling, or (iii) another counseling-related field deemed substantially equivalent by the

4. Hold the Master Addiction Counselor credential issued by NAADAC, the Association for Addiction

B. The Board shall grant licensure by endorsement as a licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner to those individuals who are certified professionals, either through examination or through an approved grandfathering process.

B. The Board shall grant licensure by endorsement as a licensed substance abuse treatment practitioner to any applicant who satisfies all requirements of subsection A.

INTRODUCED

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