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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1282**

House Amendments in [ ] - February 16, 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 Prior to Engrossment—Delegate Cole, J.G.

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

**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 [ with no history of disciplinary action ] ;*

*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 Board; and*

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

ENGROSSED

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