

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-3709, relating to the practice*  
3 *of social work.*

4 [H 2037]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-3709 as follows:**8 *§ 54.1-3709. Unlawful designation as social worker.*

9 *A. It shall be unlawful for any person not licensed under this chapter to use the title "Social Worker"*  
10 *in writing or in advertising in connection with his practice unless he simultaneously uses clarifying*  
11 *initials that signify receiving a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work from an accredited*  
12 *social work school or program approved by the Council on Social Work Education or a doctorate in*  
13 *social work.*

14 *B. A complaint or report of a possible violation of this section by any person who is licensed,*  
15 *certified, registered, or permitted, or who holds a multistate licensure privilege issued by any of the*  
16 *health regulatory boards within the Department of Health Professions shall be referred to the applicable*  
17 *board within the Department for disciplinary action. A violation of this section shall be a Class 1*  
18 *misdemeanor.*

19 *C. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any individual meeting the qualifications provided*  
20 *for in 42 C.F.R. Part 483 may practice as a "qualified social worker" in any licensed nursing home*  
21 *using such title. However, any such individual may only use the title "social worker" in connection with*  
22 *the activities of the nursing home.*

23 *D. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any individual meeting the qualifications provided*  
24 *for in 42 C.F.R. § 418.114(b)(3) may practice as a "social worker" in any licensed hospice using such*  
25 *title. However, any such individual may only use the title "social worker" in connection with the*  
26 *activities of the hospice.*

27 **2. That nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring the Department of Social Services, or**  
28 **any other entity, to hire licensed social workers or social workers with a baccalaureate or master's**  
29 **degree in social work from an accredited social work school or program approved by the Council**  
30 **on Social Work Education or a doctorate in social work.**

31 **3. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2013.**

ENROLLED

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