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HOUSE BILL NO. 426

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Health and Human Services

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Cole)

A BILL to direct the Board of Counseling to review the regulations for the licensure of professional counselors and develop an examination alternative to licensure that does not conflict with the requirements set forth in the Counseling Compact.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. That the Board of Counseling (the Board) shall review the regulations for the licensure of professional counselors and develop an examination alternative to licensure that does not conflict with the requirements set forth in the Counseling Compact entered into under § 54.1-3500.1 of the Code of Virginia. Under this alternative pathway, the Board may issue a license to practice as a professional counselor without examination to an individual who has applied for such license and who satisfies all other education, experience, and fitness to practice requirements.

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