

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating background screenings and
3 certifications; amending s. 420.621, F.S.; defining
4 the term "person with lived experience"; creating s.
5 420.6241, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
6 providing qualifications for a person seeking
7 certification as a person with lived experience;
8 requiring continuum of care lead agencies to submit
9 certain information to the Department of Children and
10 Families for purposes of background screening;
11 providing duties of the department; prescribing
12 screening requirements; specifying disqualifying
13 offenses for a person applying for certification;
14 authorizing a person who does not meet background
15 screening requirements to apply to the department for
16 an exemption from disqualification; requiring the
17 department to accept or reject such application within
18 a specified time; amending s. 456.0135, F.S.;
19 expanding certain background screening requirements to
20 apply to all health care practitioners, rather than
21 specified practitioners; requiring health care
22 practitioners licensed before a specified date to
23 comply with certain background screening requirements
24 upon licensure renewal that takes place after a
25 specified date; prohibiting the Department of Health

26 from renewing health care practitioner licenses in
 27 certain circumstances beginning on a specified date;
 28 amending ss. 457.105, 463.006, 465.007, 465.0075,
 29 465.013, 465.014, 466.006, 466.0067, 466.007, 467.011,
 30 468.1185, 468.1215, 468.1695, 468.209, 468.213,
 31 468.355, 468.358, 468.509, 468.513, 468.803, 478.45,
 32 483.815, 483.901, 483.914, 484.007, 484.045, 486.031,
 33 486.102, 490.005, 490.0051, 490.006, 491.0045,
 34 491.0046, 491.005, and 491.006, F.S.; revising
 35 licensure, registration, or certification
 36 requirements, as applicable, for acupuncturists;
 37 optometrists; pharmacists; pharmacist licenses by
 38 endorsement; registered pharmacy interns; pharmacy
 39 technicians; dentists; health access dental licenses;
 40 dental hygienists; midwives; speech-language
 41 pathologists and audiologists; speech-language
 42 pathology assistants and audiology assistants; nursing
 43 home administrators; occupational therapists and
 44 occupational therapy assistants; occupational
 45 therapist and occupational therapy assistant licenses
 46 by endorsement; respiratory therapists; respiratory
 47 therapist licenses by endorsement;
 48 dietitian/nutritionists; dietitian/nutritionist
 49 licenses by endorsement; practitioners of orthotics,
 50 prosthetics, or pedorthics; electrologists; clinical

51 laboratory personnel; medical physicists; genetic
52 counselors; opticians; hearing aid specialists;
53 physical therapists; physical therapist assistants;
54 psychologists and school psychologists; provisional
55 licenses for psychologists; psychologist and school
56 psychologist licenses by endorsement; intern
57 registrations for clinical social work, marriage and
58 family therapy, and mental health counseling;
59 provisional licenses for clinical social workers,
60 marriage and family therapists, and mental health
61 counselors; clinical social workers, marriage and
62 family therapists, and mental health counselors; and
63 clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist,
64 and mental health counselor licenses by endorsement,
65 respectively, to include background screening
66 requirements; making conforming and technical changes;
67 amending ss. 468.505, 486.025, 486.0715, 486.1065, and
68 491.003, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing
69 an appropriation; providing an effective date.

70
71 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

72
73 Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 420.621, Florida
74 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), and a new subsection
75 (6) is added to that section, to read:

76 420.621 Definitions.—As used in ss. 420.621-420.628, the
77 term:

78 (6) "Person with lived experience" means any person with
79 current or past experience of homelessness, as defined in 24
80 C.F.R. s. 578.3, including persons who have accessed or sought
81 homeless services while fleeing domestic violence.

82 Section 2. Section 420.6241, Florida Statutes, is created
83 to read:

84 420.6241 Persons with lived experience.—

85 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature finds that the
86 ability to provide adequate homeless services is limited due to
87 a shortage of professionals and paraprofessionals in the field.
88 Persons with lived experience of homelessness are uniquely
89 qualified to provide effective support services because they
90 share common life experiences with the persons they assist. A
91 person with lived experience may have a criminal history that
92 prevents him or her from meeting background screening
93 requirements.

94 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—A person may seek certification as a
95 person with lived experience if he or she has received homeless
96 services. A continuum of care lead agency serving the homeless
97 must include documentation of the homeless services such person
98 received when requesting a background check of the applicant.

99 (3) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department shall ensure
100 that an applicant's background screening required to achieve

101 certification is conducted as provided in subsection (4).

102 (4) BACKGROUND SCREENING.—

103 (a) The background screening conducted under this
 104 subsection must ensure that the qualified applicant has not,
 105 during the preceding 3 years, been arrested for and is not
 106 awaiting final disposition of, has not been found guilty of,
 107 regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere
 108 or guilty to, or has not been adjudicated delinquent and the
 109 record has been sealed or expunged for, any felony.

110 (b) The background screening conducted under this
 111 subsection must ensure that the qualified applicant has not been
 112 arrested for and is not awaiting final disposition of, has not
 113 been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a
 114 plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or has not been
 115 adjudicated delinquent and the record has been sealed or
 116 expunged for, any offense prohibited under any of the following
 117 state laws or similar laws of another jurisdiction:

118 1. Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with
 119 certain developmentally disabled clients and reporting of such
 120 sexual misconduct.

121 2. Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct with
 122 certain mental health patients and reporting of such sexual
 123 misconduct.

124 3. Section 409.920, relating to Medicaid provider fraud,
 125 if the offense is a felony of the first or second degree.

- 126 4. Section 415.111, relating to criminal penalties for
127 abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- 128 5. Any offense that constitutes domestic violence, as
129 defined in s. 741.28.
- 130 6. Section 777.04, relating to attempts, solicitation, and
131 conspiracy to commit an offense listed in this paragraph.
- 132 7. Section 782.04, relating to murder.
- 133 8. Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated
134 manslaughter of an elderly person or a disabled adult,
135 aggravated manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter
136 of an officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician,
137 or a paramedic.
- 138 9. Section 782.071, relating to vehicular homicide.
- 139 10. Section 782.09, relating to killing of an unborn child
140 by injury to the mother.
- 141 11. Chapter 784, relating to assault, battery, and
142 culpable negligence, if the offense is a felony.
- 143 12. Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.
- 144 13. Section 787.02, relating to false imprisonment.
- 145 14. Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a
146 child.
- 147 15. Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking,
148 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or
149 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending
150 custody proceedings.

151 16. Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking,
152 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or
153 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending
154 dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse
155 or neglect of a minor.

156 17. Section 790.115(1), relating to exhibiting firearms or
157 weapons within 1,000 feet of a school.

158 18. Section 790.115(2) (b), relating to possessing an
159 electric weapon or device, a destructive device, or any other
160 weapon on school property.

161 19. Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery.

162 20. Former s. 794.041, relating to prohibited acts of
163 persons in familial or custodial authority.

164 21. Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity
165 with certain minors.

166 22. Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation.

167 23. Section 796.07, relating to procuring another to
168 commit prostitution, except for those offenses expunged pursuant
169 to s. 943.0583.

170 24. Section 798.02, relating to lewd and lascivious
171 behavior.

172 25. Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent
173 exposure.

174 26. Section 806.01, relating to arson.

175 27. Section 810.02, relating to burglary, if the offense

176 | is a felony of the first degree.

177 | 28. Section 810.14, relating to voyeurism, if the offense

178 | is a felony.

179 | 29. Section 810.145, relating to video voyeurism, if the

180 | offense is a felony.

181 | 30. Section 812.13, relating to robbery.

182 | 31. Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden

183 | snatching.

184 | 32. Section 812.133, relating to carjacking.

185 | 33. Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion robbery.

186 | 34. Section 817.034, relating to communications fraud, if

187 | the offense is a felony of the first degree.

188 | 35. Section 817.234, relating to false and fraudulent

189 | insurance claims, if the offense is a felony of the first or

190 | second degree.

191 | 36. Section 817.50, relating to fraudulently obtaining

192 | goods or services from a health care provider and false reports

193 | of a communicable disease.

194 | 37. Section 817.505, relating to patient brokering.

195 | 38. Section 817.568, relating to fraudulent use of

196 | personal identification, if the offense is a felony of the first

197 | or second degree.

198 | 39. Section 825.102, relating to abuse, aggravated abuse,

199 | or neglect of an elderly person or a disabled adult.

200 | 40. Section 825.1025, relating to lewd or lascivious

201 offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person
202 or a disabled person.

203 41. Section 825.103, relating to exploitation of an
204 elderly person or a disabled adult, if the offense is a felony.

205 42. Section 826.04, relating to incest.

206 43. Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated
207 child abuse, or neglect of a child.

208 44. Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the
209 delinquency or dependency of a child.

210 45. Former s. 827.05, relating to negligent treatment of
211 children.

212 46. Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a
213 child.

214 47. Section 831.30, relating to fraud in obtaining
215 medicinal drugs.

216 48. Section 831.31, relating to the sale, manufacture,
217 delivery, or possession with intent to sell, manufacture, or
218 deliver any counterfeit controlled substance, if the offense is
219 a felony.

220 49. Section 843.01, relating to resisting arrest with
221 violence.

222 50. Section 843.025, relating to depriving a law
223 enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer of
224 the means of protection or communication.

225 51. Section 843.12, relating to aiding in an escape.

226 52. Section 843.13, relating to aiding in the escape of
 227 juvenile inmates of correctional institutions.

228 53. Chapter 847, relating to obscenity.

229 54. Section 874.05, relating to encouraging or recruiting
 230 another to join a criminal gang.

231 55. Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and
 232 control, if the offense is a felony of the second degree or
 233 greater severity.

234 56. Section 895.03, relating to racketeering and
 235 collection of unlawful debts.

236 57. Section 896.101, relating to the Florida Money
 237 Laundering Act.

238 58. Section 916.1075, relating to sexual misconduct with
 239 certain forensic clients and reporting of such sexual
 240 misconduct.

241 59. Section 944.35(3), relating to inflicting cruel or
 242 inhuman treatment on an inmate, resulting in great bodily harm.

243 60. Section 944.40, relating to escape.

244 61. Section 944.46, relating to harboring, concealing, or
 245 aiding an escaped prisoner.

246 62. Section 944.47, relating to introduction of contraband
 247 into a correctional institution.

248 63. Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in
 249 juvenile justice programs.

250 64. Section 985.711, relating to introduction of

251 contraband into a detention facility.

252 (5) EXEMPTION REQUESTS.—An applicant who desires to become
 253 a certified person with lived experience but is disqualified
 254 under subsection (4) may apply to the department for an
 255 exemption from disqualification under s. 435.07, as applicable.
 256 The department shall accept or reject an application for
 257 exemption within 90 days after receiving the application from
 258 the applicant.

259 Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 456.0135, Florida
 260 Statutes, is amended to read:

261 456.0135 General background screening provisions.—

262 (1) An application for initial licensure received on or
 263 after January 1, 2013, under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter
 264 460, chapter 461, chapter 462, chapter 463, chapter 464, chapter
 265 465 s. 465.022, chapter 466, chapter 467, part I, part II, part
 266 III, part V, part X, part XIII, or part XIV of chapter 468,
 267 chapter 478, ~~or~~ chapter 480, chapter 483, chapter 484, chapter
 268 486, chapter 490, or chapter 491 must ~~shall~~ include fingerprints
 269 pursuant to procedures established by the department through a
 270 vendor approved by the Department of Law Enforcement and fees
 271 imposed for the initial screening and retention of fingerprints.
 272 Fingerprints must be submitted electronically to the Department
 273 of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of
 274 Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal
 275 Bureau of Investigation for national processing. Each board, or

276 the department if there is no board, must ~~shall~~ screen the
277 results to determine whether ~~if~~ an applicant meets licensure
278 requirements. For any subsequent renewal of the applicant's
279 license which ~~that~~ requires a national criminal history check,
280 the department shall request the Department of Law Enforcement
281 to forward the retained fingerprints of the applicant to the
282 Federal Bureau of Investigation unless the fingerprints are
283 enrolled in the national retained print arrest notification
284 program.

285 Section 4. Health care practitioners as defined in s.
286 456.001, Florida Statutes, who were licensed before July 1,
287 2024, must comply with the background screening requirements of
288 s. 456.0135, Florida Statutes, upon their next licensure renewal
289 that takes place after January 1, 2025. Beginning January 1,
290 2025, the Department of Health may not renew the license of a
291 health care practitioner until he or she complies with the
292 background screening requirements of s. 456.0135, Florida
293 Statutes.

294 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 457.105, Florida
295 Statutes, is amended to read:

296 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

297 (2) A person may become licensed to practice acupuncture
298 if the person applies to the department and meets all of the
299 following criteria:

300 (a) Is 21 years of age or older, has good moral character,

301 and has the ability to communicate in English, which is
302 demonstrated by having passed the national written examination
303 in English or, if such examination was passed in a foreign
304 language, by also having passed a nationally recognized English
305 proficiency examination.†

306 (b) Has completed 60 college credits from an accredited
307 postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrollment in an
308 authorized 3-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental
309 medicine, and has completed a 3-year course of study in
310 acupuncture and oriental medicine, and effective July 31, 2001,
311 a 4-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental medicine,
312 which meets standards established by the board by rule, which
313 standards include, but are not limited to, successful completion
314 of academic courses in western anatomy, western physiology,
315 western pathology, western biomedical terminology, first aid,
316 and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). However, any person who
317 enrolled in an authorized course of study in acupuncture before
318 August 1, 1997, must have completed only a 2-year course of
319 study which meets standards established by the board by rule,
320 which standards must include, but are not limited to, successful
321 completion of academic courses in western anatomy, western
322 physiology, and western pathology.†

323 (c) Has successfully completed a board-approved national
324 certification process, is actively licensed in a state that has
325 examination requirements that are substantially equivalent to or

326 | more stringent than those of this state, or passes an
 327 | examination administered by the department, which examination
 328 | tests the applicant's competency and knowledge of the practice
 329 | of acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the request of any
 330 | applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points must ~~shall~~ be
 331 | used in the examination. The examination must ~~shall~~ include a
 332 | practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to
 333 | practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental
 334 | medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and
 335 | procedures. ~~and~~

336 | (d) Pays the required fees set by the board by rule not to
 337 | exceed the following amounts:

338 | 1. Examination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant
 339 | cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical
 340 | portions of the examination from a national organization
 341 | approved by the board.

342 | 2. Application fee: \$300.

343 | 3. Reexamination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant
 344 | cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical
 345 | portions of the examination from a national organization
 346 | approved by the board.

347 | 4. Initial biennial licensure fee: \$400, if licensed in
 348 | the first half of the biennium, and \$200, if licensed in the
 349 | second half of the biennium.

350 | (e) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.

351 456.0135.

352 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 463.006, Florida
353 Statutes, is amended to read:

354 463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.—

355 (1) Any person desiring to be a licensed practitioner
356 under ~~pursuant to~~ this chapter must apply to the department,
357 submit to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135,
358 and ~~must~~ submit proof to the department that she or he meets all
359 of the following criteria:

360 (a) Has completed the application forms as required by the
361 board, remitted an application fee for certification not to
362 exceed \$250, remitted an examination fee for certification not
363 to exceed \$250, and remitted an examination fee for licensure
364 not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

365 (b) Is at least 18 years of age.

366 (c) Has graduated from an accredited school or college of
367 optometry approved by rule of the board.

368 (d) Is of good moral character.

369 (e) Has successfully completed at least 110 hours of
370 transcript-quality coursework and clinical training in general
371 and ocular pharmacology as determined by the board, at an
372 institution that:

373 1. Has facilities for both didactic and clinical
374 instructions in pharmacology; and

375 2. Is accredited by a regional or professional accrediting

376 organization that is recognized and approved by the Commission
 377 on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United
 378 States Department of Education.

379 (f) Has completed at least 1 year of supervised experience
 380 in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of
 381 the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the
 382 optometric experience.

383 Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 465.007, Florida
 384 Statutes, is amended to read:

385 465.007 Licensure by examination.—

386 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a pharmacist
 387 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination.
 388 The department shall examine each applicant who the board
 389 certifies has met all of the following criteria:

390 (a) Completed the application form and remitted an
 391 examination fee set by the board not to exceed \$100 plus the
 392 actual per applicant cost to the department for purchase of
 393 portions of the examination from the National Association of
 394 Boards of Pharmacy or a similar national organization. The fees
 395 authorized under this section shall be established in sufficient
 396 amounts to cover administrative costs.

397 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 398 s. 456.0135.

399 (c) ~~(b)~~ Submitted satisfactory proof that she or he is not
 400 less than 18 years of age and:

401 1. Is a recipient of a degree from a school or college of
 402 pharmacy accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and
 403 approved by the United States Office of Education; or

404 2. Is a graduate of a 4-year undergraduate pharmacy
 405 program of a school or college of pharmacy located outside the
 406 United States, has demonstrated proficiency in English by
 407 passing both the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
 408 and the Test of Spoken English (TSE), has passed the Foreign
 409 Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination that is approved by
 410 rule of the board, and has completed a minimum of 500 hours in a
 411 supervised work activity program within this state under the
 412 supervision of a pharmacist licensed by the department, which
 413 program is approved by the board.

414 ~~(d)-(e)~~ Submitted satisfactory proof that she or he has
 415 completed an internship program approved by the board. No such
 416 board-approved program shall exceed 2,080 hours, all of which
 417 may be obtained prior to graduation.

418 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 465.0075, Florida
 419 Statutes, is amended to read:

420 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—

421 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 422 any applicant who applies to the department and remits a
 423 nonrefundable fee of not more than \$100, as set by the board,
 424 and who whom the board certifies has met all of the following
 425 criteria:

426 (a) ~~Has~~ Met the qualifications for licensure in s.
 427 465.007(1) (b), and (c), and (d).~~†~~

428 (b) ~~Has~~ Obtained a passing score, as established by rule
 429 of the board, on the licensure examination of the National
 430 Association of Boards of Pharmacy or a similar nationally
 431 recognized examination, if the board certifies that the
 432 applicant has taken the required examination.†

433 (c)1. ~~Has~~ Submitted evidence of the active licensed
 434 practice of pharmacy, including practice in community or public
 435 health by persons employed by a governmental entity, in another
 436 jurisdiction for at least 2 of the immediately preceding 5 years
 437 or evidence of successful completion of board-approved
 438 postgraduate training or a board-approved clinical competency
 439 examination within the year immediately preceding application
 440 for licensure; or

441 2. ~~Has~~ Completed an internship meeting the requirements of
 442 s. 465.007(1) (d) ~~s. 465.007(1) (e)~~ within the 2 years immediately
 443 preceding application.† ~~and~~

444 (d) ~~Has~~ Obtained a passing score on the pharmacy
 445 jurisprudence portions of the licensure examination, as required
 446 by board rule.

447 Section 9. Section 465.013, Florida Statutes, is amended
 448 to read:

449 465.013 Registration of pharmacy interns.—The department
 450 shall register as pharmacy interns persons certified by the

451 board as being enrolled in an intern program at an accredited
452 school or college of pharmacy or who are graduates of accredited
453 schools or colleges of pharmacy and are not yet licensed in the
454 state. Applicants for registration must submit to background
455 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. The board may refuse
456 to certify to the department or may revoke the registration of
457 any intern for good cause, including grounds enumerated in this
458 chapter for revocation of pharmacists' licenses.

459 Section 10. Subsection (2) of section 465.014, Florida
460 Statutes, is amended to read:

461 465.014 Pharmacy technician.—

462 (2) Any person who wishes to work as a pharmacy technician
463 in this state must register by filing an application with the
464 board on a form adopted by rule of the board and submit to
465 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. The board
466 shall register each applicant who has remitted a registration
467 fee set by the board, not to exceed \$50 biennially; has
468 completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable
469 application fee set by the board, not to exceed \$50; has
470 submitted to background screening; is at least 17 years of age;
471 and has completed a pharmacy technician training program
472 approved by the Board of Pharmacy. Notwithstanding any
473 requirements in this subsection, any registered pharmacy
474 technician registered pursuant to this section before January 1,
475 2011, who has worked as a pharmacy technician for a minimum of

476 1,500 hours under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist or
477 received certification as a pharmacy technician by certification
478 program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying
479 Agencies is exempt from the requirement to complete an initial
480 training program for purposes of registration as required by
481 this subsection.

482 Section 11. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
483 466.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

484 466.006 Examination of dentists.—

485 (1)

486 (b)1. Any person desiring to be licensed as a dentist
487 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examinations
488 and shall verify the information required on the application by
489 oath. The application must ~~shall~~ include two recent photographs.
490 There shall be an application fee set by the board not to exceed
491 \$100 which shall be nonrefundable and. ~~There shall also be an~~
492 ~~examination fee set by the board, which shall not to~~ exceed \$425
493 plus the actual per applicant cost to the department for
494 purchase of some or all of the examination from the American
495 Board of Dental Examiners or its successor entity, if any,
496 provided the board finds the successor entity's clinical
497 examination complies with ~~the provisions of~~ this section. The
498 examination fee may be refunded ~~refundable~~ if the applicant is
499 found ineligible to take the examinations.

500 2. Applicants for licensure must also submit to background

501 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

502 Section 12. Section 466.0067, Florida Statutes, is amended
503 to read:

504 466.0067 Application for health access dental license.—The
505 Legislature finds that there is an important state interest in
506 attracting dentists to practice in underserved health access
507 settings in this state and further, that allowing out-of-state
508 dentists who meet certain criteria to practice in health access
509 settings without the supervision of a dentist licensed in this
510 state is substantially related to achieving this important state
511 interest. Therefore, notwithstanding the requirements of s.
512 466.006, the board shall grant a health access dental license to
513 practice dentistry in this state in health access settings as
514 defined in s. 466.003 to an applicant who meets all of the
515 following criteria:

516 (1) Files an appropriate application approved by the
517 board.~~.~~

518 (2) Pays an application license fee for a health access
519 dental license, laws-and-rule exam fee, and an initial licensure
520 fee. The fees specified in this subsection may not differ from
521 an applicant seeking licensure pursuant to s. 466.006.~~.~~

522 (3) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
523 with s. 456.0135 and has not been convicted of or pled nolo
524 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or
525 misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care

526 | profession.‡

527 | (4) Submits proof of graduation from a dental school
528 | accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the
529 | American Dental Association or its successor agency.‡

530 | (5) Submits documentation that she or he has completed, or
531 | will obtain before licensure, continuing education equivalent to
532 | this state's requirement for dentists licensed under s. 466.006
533 | for the last full reporting biennium before applying for a
534 | health access dental license.‡

535 | (6) Submits proof of her or his successful completion of
536 | parts I and II of the dental examination by the National Board
537 | of Dental Examiners and a state or regional clinical dental
538 | licensing examination that the board has determined effectively
539 | measures the applicant's ability to practice safely.‡

540 | (7) Currently holds a valid, active dental license in good
541 | standing which has not been revoked, suspended, restricted, or
542 | otherwise disciplined from another of the United States, the
543 | District of Columbia, or a United States territory.‡

544 | (8) Has never had a license revoked from another of the
545 | United States, the District of Columbia, or a United States
546 | territory.‡

547 | (9) Has never failed the examination specified in s.
548 | 466.006, unless the applicant was reexamined pursuant to s.
549 | 466.006 and received a license to practice dentistry in this
550 | state.‡

551 (10) Has not been reported to the National Practitioner
 552 Data Bank, unless the applicant successfully appealed to have
 553 his or her name removed from the data bank.~~†~~

554 (11) Submits proof that he or she has been engaged in the
 555 active, clinical practice of dentistry providing direct patient
 556 care for 5 years immediately preceding the date of application,
 557 or in instances when the applicant has graduated from an
 558 accredited dental school within the preceding 5 years, submits
 559 proof of continuous clinical practice providing direct patient
 560 care since graduation.~~†~~~~and~~

561 (12) Has passed an examination covering the laws and rules
 562 of the practice of dentistry in this state as described in s.
 563 466.006(4) (a).

564 Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 466.007, Florida
 565 Statutes, is amended to read:

566 466.007 Examination of dental hygienists.—

567 (1)1. Any person desiring to be licensed as a dental
 568 hygienist shall apply to the department to take the licensure
 569 examinations and shall verify the information required on the
 570 application by oath. The application must ~~shall~~ include two
 571 recent photographs of the applicant. There shall be a
 572 nonrefundable application fee set by the board not to exceed
 573 \$100 and an examination fee set by the board ~~which shall~~ not to
 574 exceed ~~be more than~~ \$225. The examination fee may be refunded if
 575 the applicant is found ineligible to take the examinations.

576 2. Applicants for licensure must also submit to background
 577 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

578 Section 14. Subsection (5) is added to section 467.011,
 579 Florida Statutes, to read:

580 467.011 Licensed midwives; qualifications; examination.—
 581 The department shall issue a license to practice midwifery to an
 582 applicant who meets all of the following criteria:

583 (5) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
 584 456.0135.

585 Section 15. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 468.1185,
 586 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

587 468.1185 Licensure.—

588 (2) The board shall certify for licensure any applicant
 589 who has met all of the following criteria:

590 (a) Satisfied the education and supervised clinical
 591 requirements of s. 468.1155.

592 (b) Satisfied the professional experience requirement of
 593 s. 468.1165.

594 (c) Passed the licensure examination required by s.
 595 468.1175.

596 (d) For an applicant for an audiologist license who has
 597 obtained a doctoral degree in audiology, has satisfied the
 598 education and supervised clinical requirements of paragraph (a)
 599 and the professional experience requirements of paragraph (b).

600 (e) Submitted to background screening in accordance with

601 s. 456.0135.

602 (3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by
603 endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist an
604 applicant who:

605 (a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state
606 or territory of the United States to practice the profession for
607 which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for
608 issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or
609 more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this
610 state at the time the license was issued; or

611 (b) Holds a valid certificate of clinical competence of
612 the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association or board
613 certification in audiology from the American Board of Audiology;
614 and

615 (c) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
616 456.0135.

617 Section 16. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.1215,
618 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

619 468.1215 Speech-language pathology assistant and audiology
620 assistant; certification.—

621 (1) The department shall issue a certificate as a speech-
622 language pathology assistant to each applicant who the board
623 certifies has met all of the following criteria:

624 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the
625 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

626 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 627 s. 456.0135.

628 ~~(c)-(b)~~ Earned a bachelor's degree from a college or
 629 university accredited by a regional association of colleges and
 630 schools recognized by the Department of Education which includes
 631 at least 24 semester hours of coursework as approved by the
 632 board at an institution accredited by an accrediting agency
 633 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

634 (2) The department shall issue a certificate as an
 635 audiology assistant to each applicant who the board certifies
 636 has met all of the following criteria:

637 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the
 638 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

639 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 640 s. 456.0135.

641 ~~(c)-(b)~~ Earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

642 Section 17. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section
 643 468.1695, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3),
 644 (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection (2) is added to
 645 that section, and present subsection (2) of that section is
 646 amended, to read:

647 468.1695 Licensure by examination.—

648 (2) Applicants for licensure must also submit to
 649 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

650 ~~(3)-(2)~~ The department shall examine each applicant who the

651 board certifies has completed the application form, submitted to
 652 background screening, and remitted an examination fee set by the
 653 board not to exceed \$250 and who:

654 (a)1. Holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited
 655 college or university and majored in health care administration,
 656 health services administration, or an equivalent major, or has
 657 credit for at least 60 semester hours in subjects, as prescribed
 658 by rule of the board, which prepare the applicant for total
 659 management of a nursing home; and

660 2. Has fulfilled the requirements of a college-affiliated
 661 or university-affiliated internship in nursing home
 662 administration or of a 1,000-hour nursing home administrator-in-
 663 training program prescribed by the board; or

664 (b)1. Holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited
 665 college or university; and

666 2.a. Has fulfilled the requirements of a 2,000-hour
 667 nursing home administrator-in-training program prescribed by the
 668 board; or

669 b. Has 1 year of management experience allowing for the
 670 application of executive duties and skills, including the
 671 staffing, budgeting, and directing of resident care, dietary,
 672 and bookkeeping departments within a skilled nursing facility,
 673 hospital, hospice, assisted living facility with a minimum of 60
 674 licensed beds, or geriatric residential treatment program and,
 675 if such experience is not in a skilled nursing facility, has

676 fulfilled the requirements of a 1,000-hour nursing home
677 administrator-in-training program prescribed by the board.

678 Section 18. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.209,
679 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

680 468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

681 (1) An applicant applying for a license as an occupational
682 therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant shall apply to
683 the department on forms furnished by the department. The
684 department shall license each applicant who the board certifies
685 meets all of the following criteria:

686 (a) Has completed the file a written application form and
687 remitted, ~~accompanied by~~ the application for licensure fee
688 prescribed in s. 468.221.

689 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
690 with s. 456.0135., ~~on forms provided by the department, showing~~
691 ~~to the satisfaction of the board that she or he:~~

692 (c) ~~(a)~~ Is of good moral character.

693 (d) ~~(b)~~ Has successfully completed the academic
694 requirements of an educational program in occupational therapy
695 recognized by the board, with concentration in biologic or
696 physical science, psychology, and sociology, and with education
697 in selected manual skills. Such a program shall be accredited by
698 the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation
699 Council for Occupational Therapy Education, or its successor.

700 (e) ~~(c)~~ Has successfully completed a period of supervised

701 fieldwork experience at a recognized educational institution or
702 a training program approved by the educational institution where
703 she or he met the academic requirements. For an occupational
704 therapist, a minimum of 6 months of supervised fieldwork
705 experience is required. For an occupational therapy assistant, a
706 minimum of 2 months of supervised fieldwork experience is
707 required.

708 (f)~~(d)~~ Has passed an examination conducted or adopted by
709 the board as provided in s. 468.211.

710 (2) An applicant who has practiced as a state-licensed or
711 American Occupational Therapy Association-certified occupational
712 therapy assistant for 4 years and who, before January 24, 1988,
713 completed a minimum of 24 weeks of supervised occupational-
714 therapist-level fieldwork experience may take the examination to
715 be licensed as an occupational therapist without meeting the
716 educational requirements for occupational therapists made
717 otherwise applicable under paragraph (1) (d) ~~(1) (b)~~.

718 Section 19. Subsection (3) is added to section 468.213,
719 Florida Statutes, to read:

720 468.213 Licensure by endorsement.—

721 (3) Applicants for licensure by endorsement must submit to
722 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

723 Section 20. Section 468.355, Florida Statutes, is amended
724 to read:

725 468.355 Licensure requirements.—To be eligible for

726 licensure by the board, an applicant must be an active
 727 "certified respiratory therapist" or an active "registered
 728 respiratory therapist" as designated by the National Board for
 729 Respiratory Care, or its successor, and submit to background
 730 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

731 Section 21. Subsection (4) of section 468.358, Florida
 732 Statutes, is amended to read:

733 468.358 Licensure by endorsement.—

734 (4) Applicants for licensure ~~shall not be granted~~ by
 735 endorsement under ~~as provided in~~ this section must submit
 736 ~~without the submission of~~ a proper application, remit and the
 737 ~~payment of~~ the requisite application fee, and submit to
 738 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135 ~~fees~~
 739 ~~therefor.~~

740 Section 22. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section
 741 468.509, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3),
 742 (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection (2) is added to
 743 that section, and present subsection (2) of that section is
 744 amended, to read:

745 468.509 Dietitian/nutritionist; requirements for
 746 licensure.—

747 (2) Applicants for licensure must also submit to
 748 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

749 ~~(3)(2)~~ The department shall examine any applicant who the
 750 board certifies has completed the application form, submitted to

751 background screening, and remitted the application and
752 examination fees specified in s. 468.508 and who:

753 (a)1. Possesses a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate
754 degree with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and
755 nutrition, dietetics, or food management, or an equivalent major
756 course of study, from a school or program accredited, at the
757 time of the applicant's graduation, by the appropriate
758 accrediting agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition
759 of Postsecondary Accreditation and the United States Department
760 of Education; and

761 2. Has completed a preprofessional experience component of
762 not less than 900 hours or has education or experience
763 determined to be equivalent by the board; or

764 (b)1. Has an academic degree, from a foreign country, that
765 has been validated by an accrediting agency approved by the
766 United States Department of Education as equivalent to the
767 baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree conferred by a
768 regionally accredited college or university in the United
769 States;

770 2. Has completed a major course of study in human
771 nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics, or food management;
772 and

773 3. Has completed a preprofessional experience component of
774 not less than 900 hours or has education or experience
775 determined to be equivalent by the board.

776 Section 23. Subsection (1) of section 468.513, Florida
 777 Statutes, is amended to read:

778 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—

779 (1) The department shall issue a license to practice
 780 dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who
 781 submits to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135
 782 and the board certifies as qualified, upon receipt of a
 783 completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.

784 Section 24. Subsection (2) of section 468.803, Florida
 785 Statutes, is amended to read:

786 468.803 License, registration, and examination
 787 requirements.—

788 (2) An applicant for registration, examination, or
 789 licensure must apply to the department on a form prescribed by
 790 the board for consideration of board approval. Each initial
 791 applicant shall submit fingerprints to the department in
 792 accordance with s. 456.0135 and any other procedures specified
 793 by the department for state and national criminal history checks
 794 of the applicant. The board shall screen the results to
 795 determine if an applicant meets licensure requirements. The
 796 board shall consider for examination, registration, or licensure
 797 each applicant whom the board verifies meets all of the
 798 following criteria:

799 (a) Has submitted the completed application and completed
 800 the fingerprinting requirements and has paid the applicable

801 application fee, not to exceed \$500. The application fee is
 802 nonrefundable.~~†~~

803 (b) Is of good moral character.~~†~~

804 (c) Is 18 years of age or older.~~†~~ and

805 (d) Has completed the appropriate educational preparation.

806 Section 25. Subsection (1) of section 478.45, Florida
 807 Statutes, is amended to read:

808 478.45 Requirements for licensure.—

809 (1) An applicant applying for licensure as an
 810 electrologist shall apply to the department on forms furnished
 811 by the department. The department shall license each applicant
 812 who the board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

813 (a) Has completed the file a written application form and
 814 remitted, accompanied by the application for licensure fee
 815 prescribed in s. 478.55.

816 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 817 with s. 456.0135., on a form provided by the board, showing to
 818 the satisfaction of the board that the applicant:

819 (c) ~~(a)~~ Is at least 18 years old.

820 (d) ~~(b)~~ Is of good moral character.

821 (e) ~~(c)~~ Possesses a high school diploma or a high school
 822 equivalency diploma.

823 (f) ~~(d)~~ Has not committed an act in any jurisdiction which
 824 would constitute grounds for disciplining an electrologist in
 825 this state.

826 ~~(g)-(e)~~ Has successfully completed the academic
 827 requirements of an electrolysis training program, not to exceed
 828 120 hours, and the practical application thereof as approved by
 829 the board.

830 Section 26. Section 483.815, Florida Statutes, is amended
 831 to read:

832 483.815 Application for clinical laboratory personnel
 833 license.—An application for a clinical laboratory personnel
 834 license shall be made under oath on forms provided by the
 835 department and shall be accompanied by payment of fees as
 836 provided by this part. Applicants for licensure must also submit
 837 to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. A
 838 license may be issued authorizing the performance of procedures
 839 of one or more categories.

840 Section 27. Paragraphs (b) through (k) of subsection (4)
 841 of section 483.901, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 842 paragraphs (c) through (l), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is
 843 added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of that subsection
 844 is amended, to read:

845 483.901 Medical physicists; definitions; licensure.—

846 (4) LICENSE REQUIRED.—An individual may not engage in the
 847 practice of medical physics, including the specialties of
 848 diagnostic radiological physics, therapeutic radiological
 849 physics, medical nuclear radiological physics, or medical health
 850 physics, without a license issued by the department for the

851 appropriate specialty.

852 (a) The department shall adopt rules to administer this
 853 section which specify license application and renewal fees,
 854 continuing education requirements, background screening
 855 requirements, and standards for practicing medical physics. The
 856 department shall require a minimum of 24 hours per biennium of
 857 continuing education offered by an organization approved by the
 858 department. The department may adopt rules to specify continuing
 859 education requirements for persons who hold a license in more
 860 than one specialty.

861 (b) Applicants for a medical physicist license must submit
 862 to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

863 Section 28. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 483.914,
 864 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

865 483.914 Licensure requirements.—

866 (2) The department shall issue a license, valid for 2
 867 years, to each applicant who meets all of the following
 868 criteria:

869 (a) Has completed an application.

870 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 871 with s. 456.0135.

872 (c)~~(b)~~ Is of good moral character.

873 (d)~~(e)~~ Provides satisfactory documentation of having
 874 earned:

875 1. A master's degree from a genetic counseling training

876 program or its equivalent as determined by the Accreditation
877 Council of Genetic Counseling or its successor or an equivalent
878 entity; or

879 2. A doctoral degree from a medical genetics training
880 program accredited by the American Board of Medical Genetics and
881 Genomics or the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists.

882 (e)~~(d)~~ Has passed the examination for certification as:

883 1. A genetic counselor by the American Board of Genetic
884 Counseling, Inc., the American Board of Medical Genetics and
885 Genomics, or the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors; or

886 2. A medical or clinical geneticist by the American Board
887 of Medical Genetics and Genomics or the Canadian College of
888 Medical Geneticists.

889 (3) The department may issue a temporary license for up to
890 2 years to an applicant who meets all requirements for licensure
891 except for the certification examination requirement imposed
892 under paragraph (2)(e) ~~(2)(d)~~ and is eligible to sit for that
893 certification examination.

894 Section 29. Subsection (1) of section 484.007, Florida
895 Statutes, is amended to read:

896 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical
897 establishments.—

898 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply
899 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a
900 licensure examination. The department shall examine each

901 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following
 902 criteria:

903 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a
 904 nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of
 905 \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the
 906 amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the
 907 department for purchase of portions of the examination from the
 908 American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization,
 909 or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant
 910 ineligible to take the examination. †

911 (b) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
 912 456.0135.

913 (c) ~~(b)~~ Is not less than 18 years of age. †

914 (d) ~~(e)~~ Is a graduate of an accredited high school or
 915 possesses a certificate of equivalency of a high school
 916 education. † ~~and~~

917 (e)1. ~~(d)1.~~ Has received an associate degree, or its
 918 equivalent, in opticianry from an educational institution the
 919 curriculum of which is accredited by an accrediting agency
 920 recognized and approved by the United States Department of
 921 Education or the Council on Postsecondary Education or approved
 922 by the board;

923 2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of
 924 opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another
 925 state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has

926 actively practiced in such other state, territory, or
 927 jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding
 928 application, and who meets the examination qualifications as
 929 provided in this subsection;

930 3. Is an individual who has actively practiced in another
 931 state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for more
 932 than 5 years immediately preceding application and who provides
 933 tax or business records, affidavits, or other satisfactory
 934 documentation of such practice and who meets the examination
 935 qualifications as provided in this subsection; or

936 4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department and
 937 paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of the
 938 board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training
 939 under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for
 940 at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under
 941 the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5
 942 years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in
 943 a recognized school may be considered as part of the
 944 apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish
 945 administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of
 946 administering apprentice rules adopted ~~as promulgated~~ by the
 947 board.

948 Section 30. Subsection (2) of section 484.045, Florida
 949 Statutes, is amended to read:

950 484.045 Licensure by examination.—

951 (2) The department shall license each applicant who the
 952 board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

953 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted the
 954 required fees.

955 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 956 with s. 456.0135.

957 (c)~~(b)~~ Is of good moral character.

958 (d)~~(e)~~ Is 18 years of age or older.

959 (e)~~(d)~~ Is a graduate of an accredited high school or its
 960 equivalent.

961 (f)1.~~(e)1.~~ Has met the requirements of the training
 962 program; or

963 2.a. Has a valid, current license as a hearing aid
 964 specialist or its equivalent from another state and has been
 965 actively practicing in such capacity for at least 12 months; or

966 b. Is currently certified by the National Board for
 967 Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences and has been
 968 actively practicing for at least 12 months.

969 (g)~~(f)~~ Has passed an examination, as prescribed by board
 970 rule.

971 (h)~~(g)~~ Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of
 972 the board, knowledge of state laws and rules relating to the
 973 fitting and dispensing of prescription hearing aids.

974 Section 31. Section 486.031, Florida Statutes, is amended
 975 to read:

976 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be
 977 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant
 978 must meet all of the following criteria:

979 (1) Be at least 18 years old.†

980 (2) Be of good moral character.†

981 (3) Have submitted to background screening in accordance
 982 with s. 456.0135.† and

983 (4) (a) ~~(3) (a)~~ Have ~~been~~ graduated from a school of physical
 984 therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation
 985 of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency
 986 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or
 987 its successor entity, ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary~~
 988 ~~Accreditation~~ or the United States Department of Education at
 989 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the
 990 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination
 991 prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to
 992 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 993 therapist as hereinafter provided;

994 (b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical
 995 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials
 996 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational
 997 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as
 998 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,
 999 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination
 1000 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical

1001 therapist as hereinafter provided; or
 1002 (c) Be entitled to licensure without examination as
 1003 provided in s. 486.081.
 1004 Section 32. Section 486.102, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1005 to read:
 1006 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing
 1007 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a
 1008 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must meet all of the
 1009 following criteria:
 1010 (1) Be at least 18 years old.‡
 1011 (2) Be of good moral character.‡
 1012 (3) Have submitted to background screening in accordance
 1013 with s. 456.0135.‡~~and~~
 1014 (4) (a) ~~(3) (a)~~ Have ~~been~~ graduated from a school giving a
 1015 course of not less than 2 years for physical therapist
 1016 assistants, which has been approved for the educational
 1017 preparation of physical therapist assistants by the appropriate
 1018 accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher
 1019 Education Accreditation, or its successor entity, ~~Commission on~~
 1020 ~~Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation~~ or the United States
 1021 Department of Education,‡ at the time of her or his graduation
 1022 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination
 1023 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 1024 therapist assistant as hereinafter provided;
 1025 (b) Have ~~been~~ graduated from a school giving a course for

1026 physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have
 1027 educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for
 1028 the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in
 1029 this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as
 1030 identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the
 1031 board an examination to determine her or his fitness for
 1032 practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter
 1033 provided;

1034 (c) Be entitled to licensure without examination as
 1035 provided in s. 486.107; or

1036 (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,
 1037 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state
 1038 which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

1039 1. Have ~~been graduated or be eligible to graduate from~~
 1040 ~~such school no later than July 1, 2018;~~ and

1041 2. Have passed to the satisfaction of the board an
 1042 examination to determine his or her fitness for practice as a
 1043 physical therapist assistant as provided in s. 486.104.

1044 Section 33. Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of subsection (1)
 1045 of section 490.005, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 1046 paragraphs (c), (d), and (e), respectively, a new paragraph (b)
 1047 is added to that subsection, and subsection (2) is amended, to
 1048 read:

1049 490.005 Licensure by examination.—

1050 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a psychologist

1051 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination.
 1052 The department shall license each applicant whom the board
 1053 certifies has met all of the following requirements:

1054 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1055 s. 456.0135.

1056 (2) Any person desiring to be licensed as a school
 1057 psychologist shall apply to the department to take the licensure
 1058 examination. The department shall license each applicant who the
 1059 department certifies has met all of the following requirements:

1060 (a) Satisfactorily completed the application form and
 1061 submitted a nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$250 and
 1062 an examination fee sufficient to cover the per applicant cost to
 1063 the department for development, purchase, and administration of
 1064 the examination, but not to exceed \$250 as set by department
 1065 rule.

1066 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1067 s. 456.0135.

1068 (c)~~(b)~~ Submitted satisfactory proof to the department that
 1069 the applicant:

1070 1. Has received a doctorate, specialist, or equivalent
 1071 degree from a program primarily psychological in nature and has
 1072 completed 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
 1073 study, in areas related to school psychology as defined by rule
 1074 of the department, from a college or university which at the
 1075 time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was accredited by

1076 an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the Council for
1077 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or
1078 from an institution that is a member in good standing with the
1079 Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

1080 2. Has had a minimum of 3 years of experience in school
1081 psychology, 2 years of which must be supervised by an individual
1082 who is a licensed school psychologist or who has otherwise
1083 qualified as a school psychologist supervisor, by education and
1084 experience, as set forth by rule of the department. A doctoral
1085 internship may be applied toward the supervision requirement.

1086 3. Has passed an examination provided by the department.

1087 Section 34. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of
1088 section 490.0051, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
1089 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, and a new paragraph (b) is
1090 added to that subsection, to read:

1091 490.0051 Provisional licensure; requirements.—

1092 (1) The department shall issue a provisional psychology
1093 license to each applicant whom the board certifies has met all
1094 of the following criteria:

1095 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
1096 s. 456.0135.

1097 Section 35. Subsection (1) of section 490.006, Florida
1098 Statutes, is amended to read:

1099 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

1100 (1) The department shall license a person as a

1101 psychologist or school psychologist who, upon applying to the
 1102 department, submitting to background screening in accordance
 1103 with s. 456.0135, and remitting the appropriate fee,
 1104 demonstrates to the department or, in the case of psychologists,
 1105 to the board that the applicant:

1106 (a) Is a diplomate in good standing with the American
 1107 Board of Professional Psychology, Inc.; or

1108 (b) Possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has at
 1109 least 10 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any
 1110 jurisdiction or territory of the United States within the 25
 1111 years preceding the date of application.

1112 Section 36. Subsections (1), (2), (4), and (6) of section
 1113 491.0045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1114 491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

1115 (1) An individual who has not satisfied the postgraduate
 1116 or post-master's level experience requirements, as specified in
 1117 s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), or~~
 1118 ~~(4)(e),~~ must register as an intern in the profession for which
 1119 he or she is seeking licensure before commencing the post-
 1120 master's experience requirement or an individual who intends to
 1121 satisfy part of the required graduate-level practicum,
 1122 internship, or field experience, outside the academic arena for
 1123 any profession, and must register as an intern in the profession
 1124 for which he or she is seeking licensure before commencing the
 1125 practicum, internship, or field experience.

1126 (2) The department shall register as a clinical social
 1127 worker intern, marriage and family therapist intern, or mental
 1128 health counselor intern each applicant who the board certifies
 1129 has met all of the following criteria:

1130 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a
 1131 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 1132 board rule. ~~†~~

1133 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1134 s. 456.0135.

1135 (c) ~~(b)~~1. Completed the education requirements as specified
 1136 in s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e),~~
 1137 ~~or (4)(e)~~ for the profession for which he or she is applying for
 1138 licensure, if needed; and

1139 2. Submitted an acceptable supervision plan, as determined
 1140 by the board, for meeting the practicum, internship, or field
 1141 work required for licensure that was not satisfied in his or her
 1142 graduate program.

1143 ~~(d)(e)~~ Identified a qualified supervisor.

1144 (4) An individual who fails to comply with this section
 1145 may not be granted a license under this chapter, and any time
 1146 spent by the individual completing the experience requirement as
 1147 specified in s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s.~~
 1148 ~~491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), or (4)(e)~~ before registering as an intern
 1149 does not count toward completion of the requirement.

1150 (6) Any registration issued after March 31, 2017, expires

1151 60 months after the date it is issued. The board may make a one-
 1152 time exception to the requirements of this subsection in
 1153 emergency or hardship cases, as defined by board rule, if the
 1154 candidate has passed the theory and practice examination
 1155 described in s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), and (4)(e) ~~s.~~
 1156 ~~491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), and (4)(d).~~

1157 Section 37. Subsection (2) of section 491.0046, Florida
 1158 Statutes, is amended to read:

1159 491.0046 Provisional license; requirements.—

1160 (2) The department shall issue a provisional clinical
 1161 social worker license, provisional marriage and family therapist
 1162 license, or provisional mental health counselor license to each
 1163 applicant who the board certifies has met all of the following
 1164 criteria:

1165 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a
 1166 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$100, as set by
 1167 board rule. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

1168 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1169 s. 456.0135.

1170 ~~(c)~~ ~~(b)~~ Earned a graduate degree in social work, a graduate
 1171 degree with a major emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a
 1172 closely related field, or a graduate degree in a major related
 1173 to the practice of mental health counseling. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

1174 ~~(d)~~ ~~(e)~~ Met the following minimum coursework requirements:

1175 1. For clinical social work, a minimum of 15 semester

1176 hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required by s.
 1177 491.005(1)(c)2.b. ~~s. 491.005(1)(b)2.b.~~

1178 2. For marriage and family therapy, 10 of the courses
 1179 required by s. 491.005(3)(c) ~~s. 491.005(3)(b)~~, as determined by
 1180 the board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of
 1181 the course credits must have been completed in the area of
 1182 marriage and family systems, theories, or techniques.

1183 3. For mental health counseling, a minimum of seven of the
 1184 courses required under s. 491.005(4)(c)1.a., b., or c. ~~s.~~
 1185 ~~491.005(4)(b)1.a.-c.~~

1186 Section 38. Subsections (1) through (4) of section
 1187 491.005, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1188 491.005 Licensure by examination.—

1189 (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of
 1190 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 1191 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a clinical
 1192 social worker to an applicant whom the board certifies has met
 1193 all of the following criteria:

1194 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

1195 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1196 s. 456.0135.

1197 (c) ~~(b)~~1. Received a doctoral degree in social work from a
 1198 graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant
 1199 graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by
 1200 the United States Department of Education or received a master's

1201 degree in social work from a graduate school of social work
 1202 which at the time the applicant graduated:

- 1203 a. Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;
- 1204 b. Was accredited by the Canadian Association for Social
 1205 Work Education; or
- 1206 c. Has been determined to have been a program equivalent
 1207 to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by
 1208 the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on
 1209 Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program
 1210 at a university or college outside of the United States or
 1211 Canada must present documentation of the equivalency
 1212 determination from the council in order to qualify.

1213 2. The applicant's graduate program emphasized direct
 1214 clinical patient or client health care services, including, but
 1215 not limited to, coursework in clinical social work, psychiatric
 1216 social work, medical social work, social casework,
 1217 psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's graduate
 1218 program must have included all of the following coursework:

- 1219 a. A supervised field placement which was part of the
 1220 applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during
 1221 which the applicant provided clinical services directly to
 1222 clients.
- 1223 b. Completion of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in
 1224 theory of human behavior and practice methods as courses in
 1225 clinically oriented services, including a minimum of one course

1226 in psychopathology, and no more than one course in research,
1227 taken in a school of social work accredited or approved pursuant
1228 to subparagraph 1.

1229 3. If the course title which appears on the applicant's
1230 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the
1231 coursework, the applicant provided additional documentation,
1232 including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description
1233 published for the course.

1234 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical social work
1235 experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a
1236 graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the
1237 accreditation requirements of this section, under the
1238 supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the
1239 equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the
1240 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to
1241 satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant
1242 to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's
1243 graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct
1244 clinical patient or client health care services as described in
1245 subparagraph (c)2. ~~(b)2.~~, the supervised experience requirement
1246 must take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of
1247 15 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework
1248 required. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
1249 clinical social work experience requirement. A licensed mental
1250 health professional must be on the premises when clinical

1251 services are provided by a registered intern in a private
1252 practice setting.

1253 ~~(e)-(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
1254 by board rule.

1255 ~~(f)-(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
1256 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
1257 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
1258 health counseling.

1259 (2) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—

1260 (a) Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ paragraph (1)(c)
1261 ~~(1)(b)~~, coursework which was taken at a baccalaureate level
1262 shall not be considered toward completion of education
1263 requirements for licensure unless an official of the graduate
1264 program certifies in writing on the graduate school's stationery
1265 that a specific course, which students enrolled in the same
1266 graduate program were ordinarily required to complete at the
1267 graduate level, was waived or exempted based on completion of a
1268 similar course at the baccalaureate level. If this condition is
1269 met, the board shall apply the baccalaureate course named toward
1270 the education requirements.

1271 (b) An applicant from a master's or doctoral program in
1272 social work which did not emphasize direct patient or client
1273 services may complete the clinical curriculum content
1274 requirement by returning to a graduate program accredited by the
1275 Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of

1276 Schools of Social Work, or to a clinical social work graduate
1277 program with comparable standards, in order to complete the
1278 education requirements for examination. However, a maximum of 6
1279 semester or 9 quarter hours of the clinical curriculum content
1280 requirement may be completed by credit awarded for independent
1281 study coursework as defined by board rule.

1282 (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of
1283 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
1284 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a marriage
1285 and family therapist to an applicant whom the board certifies
1286 has met all of the following criteria:

1287 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

1288 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
1289 s. 456.0135.

1290 (c)1. Attained one of the following:

1291 a. A minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family
1292 therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on
1293 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

1294 b. A minimum of a master's degree with a major emphasis in
1295 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field from a
1296 university program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of
1297 Counseling and Related Educational Programs and graduate courses
1298 approved by the board.

1299 c. A minimum of a master's degree with an emphasis in
1300 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field, with a

1301 degree conferred before September 1, 2027, from an
1302 institutionally accredited college or university and graduate
1303 courses approved by the board.

1304 2. If the course title that appears on the applicant's
1305 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the
1306 coursework, the applicant provided additional documentation,
1307 including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description
1308 published for the course. The required master's degree must have
1309 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the
1310 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an
1311 institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for
1312 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or
1313 was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an
1314 institution of higher education located outside the United
1315 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled
1316 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard
1317 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of
1318 training of those institutions in the United States which are
1319 accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by
1320 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor
1321 organization. Such foreign education and training must have been
1322 received in an institution or program of higher education
1323 officially recognized by the government of the country in which
1324 it is located as an institution or program to train students to
1325 practice as professional marriage and family therapists or

1326 psychotherapists. The applicant has the burden of establishing
1327 that the requirements of this provision have been met, and the
1328 board shall require documentation, such as an evaluation by a
1329 foreign equivalency determination service, as evidence that the
1330 applicant's graduate degree program and education were
1331 equivalent to an accredited program in this country. An
1332 applicant with a master's degree from a program that did not
1333 emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete the
1334 coursework requirement in a training institution fully
1335 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and
1336 Family Therapy Education recognized by the United States
1337 Department of Education.

1338 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience
1339 during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients were
1340 receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must be at
1341 the post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed
1342 marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of
1343 experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as
1344 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
1345 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
1346 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If
1347 a graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in
1348 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field which did
1349 not include all of the coursework required by paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~,
1350 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience may not

1351 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of 10 of
1352 the courses required by paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~, as determined by the
1353 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the
1354 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage
1355 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 years
1356 of required experience, the applicant shall provide direct
1357 individual, group, or family therapy and counseling to cases
1358 including those involving unmarried dyads, married couples,
1359 separating and divorcing couples, and family groups that include
1360 children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
1361 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
1362 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
1363 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1364 (e) ~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
1365 by board rule.

1366 (f) ~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
1367 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
1368 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
1369 health counseling.

1370
1371 For the purposes of dual licensure, the department shall license
1372 as a marriage and family therapist any person who meets the
1373 requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure may not
1374 exceed those stated in this subsection.

1375 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of

1376 | documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 1377 | board rule, the department shall issue a license as a mental
 1378 | health counselor to an applicant whom the board certifies has
 1379 | met all of the following criteria:

1380 | (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

1381 | **(b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with**
 1382 | **s. 456.0135.**

1383 | **(c)**~~(b)~~1. Attained a minimum of an earned master's degree
 1384 | from a mental health counseling program accredited by the
 1385 | Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related
 1386 | Educational Programs which consists of at least 60 semester
 1387 | hours or 80 quarter hours of clinical and didactic instruction,
 1388 | including a course in human sexuality and a course in substance
 1389 | abuse. If the master's degree is earned from a program related
 1390 | to the practice of mental health counseling which is not
 1391 | accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling
 1392 | and Related Educational Programs, then the coursework and
 1393 | practicum, internship, or fieldwork must consist of at least 60
 1394 | semester hours or 80 quarter hours and meet all of the following
 1395 | requirements:

1396 | a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of
 1397 | graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester
 1398 | hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of
 1399 | the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and
 1400 | practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment

1401 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and
1402 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and
1403 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social
1404 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,
1405 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental
1406 health counseling. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation
1407 work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied
1408 toward this requirement.

1409 b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of
1410 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,
1411 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current
1412 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American
1413 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
1414 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the
1415 common core curricular experience.

1416 c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least
1417 700 hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical practicum,
1418 internship, or field experience that includes at least 280 hours
1419 of direct client services, as required in the accrediting
1420 standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
1421 Related Educational Programs for mental health counseling
1422 programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy the post-
1423 master's clinical experience requirement.

1424 2. Provided additional documentation if a course title
1425 that appears on the applicant's transcript does not clearly

1426 identify the content of the coursework. The documentation must
1427 include, but is not limited to, a syllabus or catalog
1428 description published for the course.

1429
1430 Education and training in mental health counseling must have
1431 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the
1432 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an
1433 institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for
1434 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or
1435 was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an
1436 institution of higher education located outside the United
1437 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled
1438 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard
1439 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of
1440 training of those institutions in the United States which are
1441 accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by
1442 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor
1443 organization. Such foreign education and training must have been
1444 received in an institution or program of higher education
1445 officially recognized by the government of the country in which
1446 it is located as an institution or program to train students to
1447 practice as mental health counselors. The applicant has the
1448 burden of establishing that the requirements of this provision
1449 have been met, and the board shall require documentation, such
1450 as an evaluation by a foreign equivalency determination service,

1451 as evidence that the applicant's graduate degree program and
1452 education were equivalent to an accredited program in this
1453 country. Beginning July 1, 2025, an applicant must have a
1454 master's degree from a program that is accredited by the Council
1455 for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational
1456 Programs, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation
1457 Council, or an equivalent accrediting body which consists of at
1458 least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours to apply for
1459 licensure under this paragraph.

1460 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience
1461 in mental health counseling, which must be at the post-master's
1462 level under the supervision of a licensed mental health
1463 counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as
1464 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
1465 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
1466 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If
1467 a graduate has a master's degree with a major related to the
1468 practice of mental health counseling which did not include all
1469 the coursework required under sub-subparagraphs (c)1.a and b.
1470 ~~(b)1.a. and b.~~, credit for the post-master's level clinical
1471 experience may not commence until the applicant has completed a
1472 minimum of seven of the courses required under sub-subparagraphs
1473 (c)1.a and b. ~~(b)1.a. and b.~~, as determined by the board, one of
1474 which must be a course in psychopathology or abnormal
1475 psychology. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the

1476 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
1477 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
1478 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1479 (e)~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
1480 by board rule.

1481 (f)~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
1482 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
1483 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
1484 health counseling.

1485 Section 39. Subsection (1) of section 491.006, Florida
1486 Statutes, is amended to read:

1487 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

1488 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to
1489 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon
1490 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,
1491 demonstrates to the board that he or she:

1492 (a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of
1493 the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the
1494 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,
1495 and mental health counseling.

1496 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
1497 s. 456.0135.

1498 (c)~~(b)~~1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has
1499 actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for
1500 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;

1501 2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing
 1502 examination in another state or has passed the licensure
 1503 examination in this state in the profession for which the
 1504 applicant seeks licensure; and

1505 3. Holds a license in good standing, is not under
 1506 investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of
 1507 this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act
 1508 that would constitute a violation of this chapter.

1509
 1510 The fees paid by any applicant for certification as a master
 1511 social worker under this section are nonrefundable.

1512 Section 40. Paragraphs (d), (f), and (i) of subsection (1)
 1513 of section 468.505, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1514 468.505 Exemptions; exceptions.—

1515 (1) Nothing in this part may be construed as prohibiting
 1516 or restricting the practice, services, or activities of:

1517 (d) A person pursuing a course of study leading to a
 1518 degree in dietetics and nutrition from a program or school
 1519 accredited pursuant to s. 468.509(3) ~~s. 468.509(2)~~, if the
 1520 activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course
 1521 of study and if the person is designated by a title that clearly
 1522 indicates the person's status as a student or trainee.

1523 (f) Any dietitian or nutritionist from another state
 1524 practicing dietetics or nutrition incidental to a course of
 1525 study when taking or giving a postgraduate course or other

1526 course of study in this state, provided such dietitian or
 1527 nutritionist is licensed in another jurisdiction or is a
 1528 registered dietitian or holds an appointment on the faculty of a
 1529 school accredited pursuant to s. 468.509(3) ~~s. 468.509(2)~~.

1530 (i) An educator who is in the employ of a nonprofit
 1531 organization approved by the council; a federal, state, county,
 1532 or municipal agency, or other political subdivision; an
 1533 elementary or secondary school; or an accredited institution of
 1534 higher education the definition of which, as provided in s.
 1535 468.509(3) ~~s. 468.509(2)~~, applies to other sections of this
 1536 part, insofar as the activities and services of the educator are
 1537 part of such employment.

1538 Section 41. Section 486.025, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1539 to read:

1540 486.025 Powers and duties of the Board of Physical Therapy
 1541 Practice.—The board may administer oaths, summon witnesses, take
 1542 testimony in all matters relating to its duties under this
 1543 chapter, establish or modify minimum standards of practice of
 1544 physical therapy as defined in s. 486.021, including, but not
 1545 limited to, standards of practice for the performance of dry
 1546 needling by physical therapists, and adopt rules pursuant to ss.
 1547 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this chapter. The board may
 1548 also review the standing and reputability of any school or
 1549 college offering courses in physical therapy and whether the
 1550 courses of such school or college in physical therapy meet the

1551 standards established by the appropriate accrediting agency
 1552 referred to in s. 486.031(4)(a) ~~s. 486.031(3)(a)~~. In determining
 1553 the standing and reputability of any such school and whether the
 1554 school and courses meet such standards, the board may
 1555 investigate and personally inspect the school and courses.

1556 Section 42. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1557 486.0715, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1558 486.0715 Physical therapist; issuance of temporary
 1559 permit.—

1560 (1) The board shall issue a temporary physical therapist
 1561 permit to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

1562 (b) Is a graduate of an approved United States physical
 1563 therapy educational program and meets all the eligibility
 1564 requirements for licensure under chapter ch. 456, s. 486.031(1)-
 1565 (4)(a) ~~s. 486.031(1)-(3)(a)~~, and related rules, except passage
 1566 of a national examination approved by the board is not required.

1567 Section 43. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1568 486.1065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1569 486.1065 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of
 1570 temporary permit.—

1571 (1) The board shall issue a temporary physical therapist
 1572 assistant permit to an applicant who meets the following
 1573 requirements:

1574 (b) Is a graduate of an approved United States physical
 1575 therapy assistant educational program and meets all the

1576 eligibility requirements for licensure under chapter ch. 456, s.
 1577 486.102(1)-(4)(a) ~~s. 486.102(1)-(3)(a)~~, and related rules,
 1578 except passage of a national examination approved by the board
 1579 is not required.

1580 Section 44. Subsections (15), (16), and (17) of section
 1581 491.003, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1582 491.003 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

1583 (15) "Registered clinical social worker intern" means a
 1584 person registered under this chapter who is completing the
 1585 postgraduate clinical social work experience requirement
 1586 specified in s. 491.005(1)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e)~~.

1587 (16) "Registered marriage and family therapist intern"
 1588 means a person registered under this chapter who is completing
 1589 the post-master's clinical experience requirement specified in
 1590 s. 491.005(3)(d) ~~s. 491.005(3)(e)~~.

1591 (17) "Registered mental health counselor intern" means a
 1592 person registered under this chapter who is completing the post-
 1593 master's clinical experience requirement specified in s.
 1594 491.005(4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(4)(e)~~.

1595 Section 45. For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, nine full-time
 1596 equivalent positions, with associated salary rate of 714,651 are
 1597 authorized and the sums of \$1,164,134 in recurring and \$59,931
 1598 in nonrecurring funds from the Medical Quality Assurance Trust
 1599 Fund are appropriated to the Department of Health for the
 1600 purpose of implementing this act.

CS/CS/HB 975

2024

1601 Section 46. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.