A bill to be entitled

An act relating to physician assistants; amending ss. 458.347 and 459.022, F.S.; revising circumstances under which a physician assistant is authorized to prescribe or dispense medication; revising application requirements for licensure as a physician assistant and license renewal; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) and paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (7) of section 458.347, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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458.347 Physician assistants.-

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(4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.-

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(e) A supervisory physician may delegate to a fully licensed physician assistant the authority to prescribe or dispense any medication used in the supervisory physician's practice unless such medication is listed on the formulary created pursuant to paragraph (f). A fully licensed physician assistant may only prescribe or dispense such medication under

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the following circumstances:

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1. A physician assistant must clearly identify to the patient that he or she is a physician assistant. Furthermore, the physician assistant must inform the patient that the patient has the right to see the physician prior to any prescription

Page 1 of 7

being prescribed or dispensed by the physician assistant.

- 2. The supervisory physician must notify the department of his or her intent to delegate, on a department-approved form, before delegating such authority and notify the department of any change in prescriptive privileges of the physician assistant. Authority to dispense may be delegated only by a supervising physician who is registered as a dispensing practitioner in compliance with s. 465.0276.
- 3. The physician assistant must <u>certify to</u> file with the department a signed affidavit that he or she has completed a minimum of 10 continuing medical education hours in the specialty practice in which the physician assistant has prescriptive privileges with each licensure renewal application.
- 4. The department may issue a prescriber number to the physician assistant granting authority for the prescribing of medicinal drugs authorized within this paragraph upon completion of the foregoing requirements. The physician assistant shall not be required to independently register pursuant to s. 465.0276.
- 5. The prescription must be written in a form that complies with chapter 499 and must contain, in addition to the supervisory physician's name, address, and telephone number, the physician assistant's prescriber number. Unless it is a drug or drug sample dispensed by the physician assistant, the prescription must be filled in a pharmacy permitted under chapter 465 and must be dispensed in that pharmacy by a pharmacist licensed under chapter 465. The appearance of the

Page 2 of 7

prescriber number creates a presumption that the physician assistant is authorized to prescribe the medicinal drug and the prescription is valid.

- 6. The physician assistant must note the prescription or dispensing of medication in the appropriate medical record.
 - (7) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.

- (a) Any person desiring to be licensed as a physician assistant must apply to the department. The department shall issue a license to any person certified by the council as having met the following requirements:
 - 1. Is at least 18 years of age.
- 2. Has satisfactorily passed a proficiency examination by an acceptable score established by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. If an applicant does not hold a current certificate issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and has not actively practiced as a physician assistant within the immediately preceding 4 years, the applicant must retake and successfully complete the entry-level examination of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants to be eligible for licensure.
- 3. Has completed the application form and remitted an application fee not to exceed \$300 as set by the boards. An application for licensure made by a physician assistant must include:
 - a. A certificate of completion of a physician assistant

Page 3 of 7

training program specified in subsection (6).

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- b. A sworn statement of any prior felony convictions.
- c. A sworn statement of any previous revocation or denial of licensure or certification in any state.
 - d. Two letters of recommendation.
- <u>d.e.</u> A copy of course transcripts and a copy of the course description from a physician assistant training program describing course content in pharmacotherapy, if the applicant wishes to apply for prescribing authority. These documents must meet the evidence requirements for prescribing authority.
- (c) The license must be renewed biennially. Each renewal must include:
 - 1. A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards.
- 2. A sworn statement of no felony convictions in the previous 2 years.
- Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (7) of section 459.022, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 - 459.022 Physician assistants.-
 - (4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.
- (e) A supervisory physician may delegate to a fully licensed physician assistant the authority to prescribe or dispense any medication used in the supervisory physician's practice unless such medication is listed on the formulary created pursuant to s. 458.347. A fully licensed physician assistant may only prescribe or dispense such medication under

Page 4 of 7

the following circumstances:

- 1. A physician assistant must clearly identify to the patient that she or he is a physician assistant. Furthermore, the physician assistant must inform the patient that the patient has the right to see the physician prior to any prescription being prescribed or dispensed by the physician assistant.
- 2. The supervisory physician must notify the department of her or his intent to delegate, on a department-approved form, before delegating such authority and notify the department of any change in prescriptive privileges of the physician assistant. Authority to dispense may be delegated only by a supervisory physician who is registered as a dispensing practitioner in compliance with s. 465.0276.
- 3. The physician assistant must <u>certify to</u> file with the department a signed affidavit that she or he has completed a minimum of 10 continuing medical education hours in the specialty practice in which the physician assistant has prescriptive privileges with each licensure renewal application.
- 4. The department may issue a prescriber number to the physician assistant granting authority for the prescribing of medicinal drugs authorized within this paragraph upon completion of the foregoing requirements. The physician assistant shall not be required to independently register pursuant to s. 465.0276.
- 5. The prescription must be written in a form that complies with chapter 499 and must contain, in addition to the supervisory physician's name, address, and telephone number, the

Page 5 of 7

physician assistant's prescriber number. Unless it is a drug or drug sample dispensed by the physician assistant, the prescription must be filled in a pharmacy permitted under chapter 465, and must be dispensed in that pharmacy by a pharmacist licensed under chapter 465. The appearance of the prescriber number creates a presumption that the physician assistant is authorized to prescribe the medicinal drug and the prescription is valid.

- 6. The physician assistant must note the prescription or dispensing of medication in the appropriate medical record.
 - (7) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.

- (a) Any person desiring to be licensed as a physician assistant must apply to the department. The department shall issue a license to any person certified by the council as having met the following requirements:
 - 1. Is at least 18 years of age.
- 2. Has satisfactorily passed a proficiency examination by an acceptable score established by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. If an applicant does not hold a current certificate issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and has not actively practiced as a physician assistant within the immediately preceding 4 years, the applicant must retake and successfully complete the entry-level examination of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants to be eligible for licensure.

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- a. A certificate of completion of a physician assistant training program specified in subsection (6).
 - b. A sworn statement of any prior felony convictions.
- c. A sworn statement of any previous revocation or denial of licensure or certification in any state.

d. Two letters of recommendation.

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- d.e. A copy of course transcripts and a copy of the course description from a physician assistant training program describing course content in pharmacotherapy, if the applicant wishes to apply for prescribing authority. These documents must meet the evidence requirements for prescribing authority.
- (b) The licensure must be renewed biennially. Each renewal must include:
 - 1. A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards.
- 2. A sworn statement of no felony convictions in the previous 2 years.
- Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

Page 7 of 7