2014

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to physician assistants; amending ss.
3	458.347 and 459.022, F.S.; revising the number of
4	physician assistants that a physician may supervise at
5	any one time; authorizing a physician assistant to
6	execute practice-related activities in accordance with
7	his or her education, training, and expertise as
8	delegated by the supervising physician unless
9	expressly prohibited; revising the requirements for
10	obtaining licensure as a physician assistant; amending
11	ss. 458.3475, 458.348, 459.023, and 459.025, F.S.;
12	conforming cross-references; providing an effective
13	date.
14	
15	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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17	Section 1. Subsections (3) and (4), paragraphs (a) and (c)
18	of subsection (7), and paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of
19	section 458.347, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
20	458.347 Physician assistants
21	(3) PERFORMANCE OF SUPERVISING PHYSICIANEach physician
22	or group of physicians supervising a licensed physician
23	assistant must be qualified in the medical areas in which the
24	physician assistant is to perform and $\mathrm{\underline{is}}$ shall be individually
25	or collectively responsible and liable for the performance and
26	the acts and omissions of the physician assistant. A physician
ļ	Page 1 of 20

27 may not supervise more than <u>eight</u> four currently licensed 28 physician assistants at any one time. A physician supervising a 29 physician assistant pursuant to this section may not be required 30 to review and cosign charts or medical records prepared by such 31 physician assistant.

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(4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.-

33 (a) In accordance with the team-based model of health care 34 delivery, a physician assistant may execute practice-related 35 activities in accordance with his or her education, training, 36 and expertise as delegated by the supervising physician unless 37 expressly prohibited by this chapter, chapter 459, or rules 38 adopted to implement this chapter.

39 <u>(b) (a)</u> The boards shall adopt, by rule, the general 40 principles that supervising physicians must use in developing 41 the scope of practice of a physician assistant under direct 42 supervision and under indirect supervision. These principles 43 <u>must shall</u> recognize the diversity of both specialty and 44 practice settings in which physician assistants are used.

45 (c) (b) This chapter does not prevent third-party payors
46 from reimbursing employers of physician assistants for covered
47 services rendered by licensed physician assistants.

48 <u>(d) (c)</u> Licensed physician assistants may not be denied 49 clinical hospital privileges, except for cause, <u>if so long as</u> 50 the supervising physician is a staff member in good standing.

51 <u>(e)</u> (d) A <u>supervising</u> supervisory physician may delegate to 52 a licensed physician assistant, pursuant to a written protocol, Page 2 of 20

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53 the authority to act according to s. 154.04(1)(c). Such 54 delegated authority is limited to the supervising physician's 55 practice in connection with a county health department as 56 defined and established pursuant to chapter 154. The boards 57 shall adopt rules governing the supervision of physician 58 assistants by physicians in county health departments.

59 <u>(f)(e)</u> A <u>supervising</u> supervisory physician may delegate to 60 a fully licensed physician assistant the authority to prescribe 61 or dispense any medication used in the <u>supervising</u> supervisory 62 physician's practice unless such medication is listed on the 63 formulary created pursuant to paragraph <u>(g)</u> (f). A fully 64 licensed physician assistant may only prescribe or dispense such 65 medication <u>only</u> under the following circumstances:

1. A physician assistant must clearly identify to the
patient that he or she is a physician assistant and.
Furthermore, the physician assistant must inform the patient of
<u>his or her</u> that the patient has the right to see the physician
<u>before</u> prior to any prescription is being prescribed or
dispensed by the physician assistant.

72 The supervising supervisory physician must provide 2. 73 prior notification to notify the department, on a department-74 approved form, of his or her intent to delegate, on a department-approved form, before delegating such authority and 75 76 must notify the department of any change in the physician 77 assistant's prescriptive privileges of the physician assistant. 78 Authority to dispense may be delegated only by a supervising Page 3 of 20

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79 physician who is registered as a dispensing practitioner in 80 compliance with s. 465.0276.

3. The physician assistant must <u>certify</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 <u>a</u> the physician assistant <u>demonstrating compliance with this paragraph</u> <u>which grants him or her</u> granting authority for the prescribing of medicinal drugs authorized <u>under within</u> this paragraph upon completion of the foregoing requirements. The physician assistant <u>is shall</u> not be required to independently register pursuant to s. 465.0276.

93 5. The prescription must be written on in a form that 94 complies with chapter 499 and must contain, in addition to the 95 supervising supervisory physician's name, address, and telephone 96 number, the physician assistant's prescriber number. Unless it 97 is a drug or drug sample dispensed by the physician assistant, the prescription must be filled in a pharmacy permitted under 98 99 chapter 465 and must be dispensed in that pharmacy by a pharmacist licensed under chapter 465. The appearance of the 100 prescriber number creates a presumption that the physician 101 102 assistant is authorized to prescribe the medicinal drug and the 103 prescription is valid.

104

6. The physician assistant <u>shall</u> must note the Page 4 of 20

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105 prescription or dispensing of medication in the appropriate 106 medical record.

107 <u>(g) (f)</u>1. The council shall establish a formulary of 108 medicinal drugs that a fully licensed physician assistant <u>who</u> 109 <u>has having</u> prescribing authority under this section or s. 110 459.022 may not prescribe. The formulary must include controlled 111 substances as defined in chapter 893, general anesthetics, and 112 radiographic contrast materials.

113 2. In establishing the formulary, the council shall 114 consult with a pharmacist <u>who is</u> licensed under chapter 465, but 115 not licensed under this chapter or chapter 459, <u>and who is</u> shall 116 be selected by the State Surgeon General.

3. Only the council shall add to, delete from, or modify the formulary. Any person who requests an addition, deletion, or modification of a medicinal drug listed on such formulary has the burden of proof to show cause why such addition, deletion, or modification should be made.

122 The boards shall adopt the formulary required by this 4. 123 paragraph, and each addition, deletion, or modification to the 124 formulary, by rule. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120 125 to the contrary, the formulary rule is shall be effective 60 days after the date it is filed with the Secretary of State. 126 Upon adoption of the formulary, the department shall mail a copy 127 128 of such formulary to each fully licensed physician assistant who 129 has having prescribing authority under this section or s. 130 459.022, and to each pharmacy licensed by the state. The boards Page 5 of 20

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131 shall establish, by rule, a fee not to exceed \$200 to fund the 132 provisions of this paragraph and paragraph (f) (e).

133 (h) (g) A supervising supervisory physician may delegate to a licensed physician assistant the authority to order 134 medications for the supervising supervisory physician's patient 135 136 during his or her care in a facility licensed under chapter 395, 137 notwithstanding any provisions in chapter 465 or chapter 893 138 which may prohibit this delegation. For the purpose of this 139 paragraph, an order is not considered a prescription. A licensed physician assistant working in a facility that is licensed under 140 chapter 395 may order any medication under the direction of the 141 supervising supervisory physician. 142

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(7) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.-

(a) <u>A Any person who desires desiring</u> to be licensed as a
physician assistant must apply to the department. The department
shall issue a license to <u>a</u> any person certified by the council
as having met the following requirements:

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1. Is at least 18 years of age.

149 2. Has satisfactorily passed a proficiency examination by 150 an acceptable score established by the National Commission on 151 Certification of Physician Assistants. If an applicant does not hold a current certificate issued by the National Commission on 152 153 Certification of Physician Assistants and has not actively 154 practiced as a physician assistant within the immediately 155 preceding 4 years, the applicant must retake and successfully 156 complete the entry-level examination of the National Commission

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on Certification of Physician Assistants to be eligible for licensure.

159 3. Has completed the application form and remitted an 160 application fee not to exceed \$300 as set by the boards. An 161 application for licensure made by a physician assistant must 162 include:

163 a. A certificate of completion of a physician assistant164 training program specified in subsection (6).

165 b. A sworn statement of any prior felony convictions.

166 c. A sworn statement of any previous revocation or denial
167 of licensure or certification in any state.

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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.

174 (c) The license <u>shall</u> must be renewed biennially. Each 175 renewal must include:

A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards.
 A sworn statement of no felony convictions in the
 previous 2 years.

(9) COUNCIL ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—The Council on
 Physician Assistants is created within the department.

181 (c) The council shall:

Recommend to the department the licensure of physician
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183 assistants.

184 Develop all rules regulating the use of physician 2. 185 assistants by physicians under this chapter and chapter 459, except for rules relating to the formulary developed under 186 paragraph (4)(g) (4)(f). The council shall also develop rules to 187 188 ensure that the continuity of supervision is maintained in each 189 practice setting. The boards shall consider adopting a proposed 190 rule developed by the council at the regularly scheduled meeting 191 immediately following the submission of the proposed rule by the council. A proposed rule submitted by the council may not be 192 adopted by either board unless both boards have accepted and 193 194 approved the identical language contained in the proposed rule. 195 The language of all proposed rules submitted by the council must 196 be approved by both boards pursuant to their each respective 197 board's guidelines and standards regarding the adoption of 198 proposed rules. If either board rejects the council's proposed 199 rule, that board shall must specify its objection to the council 200 with particularity and include any recommendations it may have 201 for the modification of the proposed rule.

3. Make recommendations to the boards regarding allmatters relating to physician assistants.

4. Address concerns and problems of practicing physician
assistants in order to improve safety in the clinical practices
of licensed physician assistants.

207 Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4), and paragraphs (a) and 208 (b) of subsection (7) of section 459.022, Florida Statutes, are Page 8 of 20

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- 209 amended to read:
- 210

459.022 Physician assistants.-

211 (3) PERFORMANCE OF SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN.-Each physician 212 or group of physicians supervising a licensed physician assistant must be qualified in the medical areas in which the 213 214 physician assistant is to perform and is shall be individually 215 or collectively responsible and liable for the performance and 216 the acts and omissions of the physician assistant. A physician 217 may not supervise more than eight four currently licensed physician assistants at any one time. A physician supervising a 218 219 physician assistant pursuant to this section may not be required to review and cosign charts or medical records prepared by such 220 physician assistant. 221

222

(4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.-

(a) In accordance with the team-based model of health care
 delivery, a physician assistant may execute practice-related
 activities in accordance with his or her education, training,
 and expertise as delegated by the supervising physician unless
 expressly prohibited by this chapter, chapter 458, or rules
 adopted to implement this chapter.

(b) (a) The boards shall adopt, by rule, the general principles that supervising physicians must use in developing the scope of practice of a physician assistant under direct supervision and under indirect supervision. These principles <u>must shall</u> recognize the diversity of both specialty and practice settings in which physician assistants are used.

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235 <u>(c) (b)</u> This chapter does not prevent third-party payors 236 from reimbursing employers of physician assistants for covered 237 services rendered by licensed physician assistants.

238 <u>(d) (c)</u> Licensed physician assistants may not be denied 239 clinical hospital privileges, except for cause, <u>if</u> so long as 240 the supervising physician is a staff member in good standing.

241 (e) (d) A supervising supervisory physician may delegate to 242 a licensed physician assistant, pursuant to a written protocol, 243 the authority to act according to s. 154.04(1)(c). Such delegated authority is limited to the supervising physician's 244 practice in connection with a county health department as 245 246 defined and established pursuant to chapter 154. The boards 247 shall adopt rules governing the supervision of physician 248 assistants by physicians in county health departments.

249 <u>(f)(e)</u> A <u>supervising</u> supervisory physician may delegate to 250 a fully licensed physician assistant the authority to prescribe 251 or dispense any medication used in the <u>supervising</u> supervisory 252 physician's practice unless such medication is listed on the 253 formulary created pursuant to s. 458.347. A fully licensed 254 physician assistant may only prescribe or dispense such 255 medication <u>only</u> under the following circumstances:

A physician assistant must clearly identify to the
 patient that she or he is a physician assistant <u>and</u>.
 Furthermore, the physician assistant must inform the patient <u>of</u>
 <u>his or her</u> that the patient has the right to see the physician
 <u>before</u> prior to any prescription <u>is being</u> prescribed or
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261 dispensed by the physician assistant.

262 2. The supervising supervisory physician must provide 263 prior notification to notify the department, on a department-264 approved form, of his or her or his intent to delegate, on a 265 department-approved form, before delegating such authority and 266 must notify the department of any change in the physician 267 assistant's prescriptive privileges of the physician assistant. 268 Authority to dispense may be delegated only by a supervising 269 supervisory physician who is registered as a dispensing 270 practitioner in compliance with s. 465.0276.

3. The physician assistant must <u>certify</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 <u>a</u> the physician assistant <u>demonstrating compliance with this paragraph</u> <u>which grants him or her</u> granting authority for the prescribing of medicinal drugs authorized <u>under</u> within this paragraph upon completion of the foregoing requirements. The physician assistant <u>is</u> shall not be required to independently register pursuant to s. 465.0276.

5. The prescription must be written <u>on</u> in a form that complies with chapter 499 and must contain, in addition to the <u>supervising</u> supervisory physician's name, address, and telephone number, the physician assistant's prescriber number. Unless it Page 11 of 20

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.

294 6. The physician assistant <u>shall</u> must note the
295 prescription or dispensing of medication in the appropriate
296 medical record.

297 (g) (f) A supervising supervisory physician may delegate to 298 a licensed physician assistant the authority to order 299 medications for the supervising supervisory physician's patient 300 during his or her care in a facility licensed under chapter 395, 301 notwithstanding any provisions in chapter 465 or chapter 893 302 which may prohibit this delegation. For the purpose of this 303 paragraph, an order is not considered a prescription. A licensed 304 physician assistant working in a facility that is licensed under 305 chapter 395 may order any medication under the direction of the 306 supervising supervisory physician.

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(7) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.-

(a) <u>A Any person who desires</u> 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:

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1. Is at least 18 years of age.

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biennially. Each renewal must include:

A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards.
 A sworn statement of no felony convictions in the
 previous 2 years.

343 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 344 458.3475, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

345 458.3475 Anesthesiologist assistants.-

346 (7) ANESTHESIOLOGIST AND ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT TO347 ADVISE THE BOARD.—

348 (b) In addition to its other duties and responsibilities 349 as prescribed by law, the board shall:

350 1. Recommend to the department the licensure of351 anesthesiologist assistants.

352 Develop all rules regulating the use of 2. 353 anesthesiologist assistants by qualified anesthesiologists under 354 this chapter and chapter 459, except for rules relating to the 355 formulary developed under s. 458.347(4)(g) s. 458.347(4)(f). The 356 board shall also develop rules to ensure that the continuity of 357 supervision is maintained in each practice setting. The boards 358 shall consider adopting a proposed rule at the regularly 359 scheduled meeting immediately following the submission of the 360 proposed rule. A proposed rule may not be adopted by either 361 board unless both boards have accepted and approved the 362 identical language contained in the proposed rule. The language 363 of all proposed rules must be approved by both boards pursuant 364 to each respective board's guidelines and standards regarding Page 14 of 20

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365 the adoption of proposed rules.

366 3. Address concerns and problems of practicing
367 anesthesiologist assistants to improve safety in the clinical
368 practices of licensed anesthesiologist assistants.

369 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section370 458.348, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

371 458.348 Formal supervisory relationships, standing orders,
372 and established protocols; notice; standards.-

373 SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS IN MEDICAL OFFICE SETTINGS.-(4) A physician who supervises an advanced registered nurse 374 practitioner or physician assistant at a medical office other 375 376 than the physician's primary practice location, where the 377 advanced registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant is 378 not under the onsite supervision of a supervising physician, 379 must comply with the standards set forth in this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection, a physician's "primary practice 380 location" means the address reflected on the physician's profile 381 382 published pursuant to s. 456.041.

383 (C) A physician who supervises an advanced registered 384 nurse practitioner or physician assistant at a medical office 385 other than the physician's primary practice location, where the 386 advanced registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant is 387 not under the onsite supervision of a supervising physician and 388 the services offered at the office are primarily dermatologic or 389 skin care services, which include aesthetic skin care services other than plastic surgery, shall must comply with the standards 390 Page 15 of 20

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391 <u>specified</u> listed in subparagraphs 1.-4. Notwithstanding <u>s.</u>
392 <u>458.347(4)(f)6.</u> s. 458.347(4)(e)6., a physician supervising a
393 physician assistant pursuant to this paragraph <u>is may</u> not be
394 required to review and cosign charts or medical records prepared
395 by such physician assistant.

396 1. The physician shall submit to the board the addresses 397 of all offices where he or she is supervising an advanced 398 registered nurse practitioner or a <u>physician</u> physician's 399 assistant which are not the physician's primary practice 400 location.

401 2. The physician must be board certified or board eligible
402 in dermatology or plastic surgery as recognized by the board
403 pursuant to s. 458.3312.

All such offices that are not the physician's primary
place of practice must be within 25 miles of the physician's
primary place of practice or in a county that is contiguous to
the county of the physician's primary place of practice.
However, the distance between any of the offices may not exceed
75 miles.

410 The physician may supervise only one office other than 4. the physician's primary place of practice except that until July 411 412 1, 2011, the physician may supervise up to two medical offices other than the physician's primary place of practice if the 413 414 addresses of the offices are submitted to the board before July 1, 2006. Effective July 1, 2011, the physician may supervise 415 416 only one office other than the physician's primary place of Page 16 of 20

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417 practice, regardless of when the addresses of the offices were 418 submitted to the board. 419 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 420 459.023, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 421 459.023 Anesthesiologist assistants.-422 ANESTHESIOLOGIST AND ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT TO (7)423 ADVISE THE BOARD.-424 (b) In addition to its other duties and responsibilities 425 as prescribed by law, the board shall: 426 1. Recommend to the department the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. 427 428 Develop all rules regulating the use of 2. 429 anesthesiologist assistants by qualified anesthesiologists under 430 this chapter and chapter 458, except for rules relating to the 431 formulary developed under s. 458.347(4)(g) s. 458.347(4)(f). The 432 board shall also develop rules to ensure that the continuity of 433 supervision is maintained in each practice setting. The boards 434 shall consider adopting a proposed rule at the regularly 435 scheduled meeting immediately following the submission of the 436 proposed rule. A proposed rule may not be adopted by either 437 board unless both boards have accepted and approved the identical language contained in the proposed rule. The language 438 439 of all proposed rules must be approved by both boards pursuant 440 to each respective board's guidelines and standards regarding 441 the adoption of proposed rules. 442

3. Address concerns and problems of practicing Page 17 of 20

443 anesthesiologist assistants to improve safety in the clinical 444 practices of licensed anesthesiologist assistants.

445 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 446 459.025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

447 459.025 Formal supervisory relationships, standing orders,
448 and established protocols; notice; standards.-

449 SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS IN MEDICAL OFFICE SETTINGS.-(3) 450 An osteopathic physician who supervises an advanced registered 451 nurse practitioner or physician assistant at a medical office 452 other than the osteopathic physician's primary practice location, where the advanced registered nurse practitioner or 453 454 physician assistant is not under the onsite supervision of a 455 supervising osteopathic physician, must comply with the 456 standards set forth in this subsection. For the purpose of this 457 subsection, an osteopathic physician's "primary practice location" means the address reflected on the physician's profile 458 459 published pursuant to s. 456.041.

460 An osteopathic physician who supervises an advanced (C) 461 registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant at a 462 medical office other than the osteopathic physician's primary 463 practice location, where the advanced registered nurse 464 practitioner or physician assistant is not under the onsite 465 supervision of a supervising osteopathic physician and the 466 services offered at the office are primarily dermatologic or 467 skin care services, which include aesthetic skin care services 468 other than plastic surgery, shall must comply with the standards Page 18 of 20

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listed in subparagraphs 1.-4. Notwithstanding <u>s. 459.022(4)(f)6.</u>
s. 459.022(4)(e)6., an osteopathic physician supervising a
physician assistant pursuant to this paragraph <u>is may</u> not be
required to review and cosign charts or medical records prepared
by such physician assistant.

1. The osteopathic physician shall submit to the Board of Osteopathic Medicine the addresses of all offices where he or she is supervising or has a protocol with an advanced registered nurse practitioner or a <u>physician</u> physician's assistant which are not the osteopathic physician's primary practice location.

479 2. The osteopathic physician must be board certified or
480 board eligible in dermatology or plastic surgery as recognized
481 by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine pursuant to s. 459.0152.

3. All such offices that are not the osteopathic physician's primary place of practice must be within 25 miles of the osteopathic physician's primary place of practice or in a county that is contiguous to the county of the osteopathic physician's primary place of practice. However, the distance between any of the offices may not exceed 75 miles.

488 The osteopathic physician may supervise only one office 4. 489 other than the osteopathic physician's primary place of practice except that until July 1, 2011, the osteopathic physician may 490 supervise up to two medical offices other than the osteopathic 491 492 physician's primary place of practice if the addresses of the 493 offices are submitted to the Board of Osteopathic Medicine before July 1, 2006. Effective July 1, 2011, the osteopathic 494 Page 19 of 20

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495 physician may supervise only one office other than the 496 osteopathic physician's primary place of practice, regardless of 497 when the addresses of the offices were submitted to the Board of 498 Osteopathic Medicine. 499 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

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