

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to physician assistants; amending ss.
 3 458.347 and 459.022, F.S.; defining the term
 4 "designated supervising physician"; revising licensure
 5 renewal requirements to include a physician assistant
 6 workforce survey; requiring the Department of Health
 7 to issue a nondisciplinary citation to a physician
 8 assistant who fails to complete such survey; providing
 9 reporting requirements; requiring rulemaking;
 10 providing requirements related to designated
 11 supervising physicians; revising the membership of the
 12 Council on Physician Assistants as of a specified
 13 date; providing an effective date.

14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
 17 Section 1. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (2) of
 18 section 458.347, Florida Statutes, and paragraphs (b) and (d) of
 19 subsection (7) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (9) of
 20 that section are amended, to read:

21 458.347 Physician assistants.—

22 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

23 (i) "Designated supervising physician" means a physician
 24 designated by a facility or practice to be the primary contact
 25 and supervising physician for the physician assistants in a

26 | practice in which physician assistants are supervised by
 27 | multiple physicians.

28 | (7) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.—

29 | (b) The license must be renewed biennially. Each renewal
 30 | must include:

31 | 1. A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards.

32 | 2. Acknowledgment of no felony convictions in the previous
 33 | 2 years.

34 | 3. Completion of a physician assistant workforce survey
 35 | which shall be administered in the same manner and have the same
 36 | content as the physician workforce survey required under s.
 37 | 458.3191.

38 | a. The department shall issue a nondisciplinary citation
 39 | to a physician assistant licensed under this chapter or chapter
 40 | 459 who fails to complete the physician assistant workforce
 41 | survey within 90 days after the renewal of his or her license.

42 | b. The citation must notify a physician assistant who
 43 | fails to complete the physician assistant workforce survey that
 44 | his or her license is not eligible for any subsequent license
 45 | renewal until he or she completes such survey.

46 | c. In conjunction with the issuance of the license renewal
 47 | notice required by s. 456.038, the department shall notify each
 48 | physician assistant who has failed to complete the physician
 49 | assistant workforce survey at his or her last known address of
 50 | record with the department of the requirement that such survey

51 be completed before subsequent license renewal. The department
52 may not subsequently renew the license of a physician assistant
53 until he or she completes such survey.

54 d. Beginning July 1, 2018, and every 2 years thereafter,
55 the department shall report the data collected from the
56 physician assistant workforce surveys to the boards.

57 e. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to ss.
58 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to implement this subparagraph.

59 (d)1. Upon employment as a physician assistant, a licensed
60 physician assistant must notify the department in writing within
61 30 days after such employment ~~of~~ ~~or after any subsequent changes~~
62 in the supervising physician. The notification must include the
63 full name, Florida medical license number, specialty, and
64 address of a supervising physician or designated ~~the~~ supervising
65 physician. A physician assistant shall report any subsequent
66 changes in a supervising physician or designated supervising
67 physician to the department within 30 days after the change. The
68 assignment of a designated supervising physician does not
69 preclude a physician assistant from practicing under the
70 supervision of a physician other than the designated supervising
71 physician.

72 2. The designated supervising physician shall maintain a
73 list of all approved supervising physicians at the facility or
74 practice, including each physician's name and area of practice,
75 and shall update the list as needed. The designated supervising

76 | physician shall provide the list to the department in a timely
 77 | manner upon written request.

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

80 | (a) Beginning October 1, 2017, the council shall consist
 81 | of five members appointed as follows:

82 | 1. The chairperson of the Board of Medicine shall appoint
 83 | one member ~~three members~~ who is a physician ~~are physicians~~ and a
 84 | member ~~members~~ of the Board of Medicine. ~~One of~~ The physician
 85 | appointed by the Board of Medicine ~~physicians~~ must supervise a
 86 | physician assistant in the physician's practice.

87 | 2. The chairperson of the Board of Osteopathic Medicine
 88 | shall appoint one member who is a physician and a member of the
 89 | Board of Osteopathic Medicine. The physician appointed by the
 90 | Board of Osteopathic Medicine must supervise a physician
 91 | assistant in the physician's practice.

92 | 3. The State Surgeon General or his or her designee shall
 93 | appoint three ~~a~~ fully licensed physician assistants ~~assistant~~
 94 | licensed under this chapter or chapter 459.

95 | (b) ~~Two of the members appointed to the council must be~~
 96 | ~~physicians who supervise physician assistants in their practice.~~
 97 | Members shall be appointed to terms of 4 years, except that of
 98 | the initial appointments, two members shall be appointed to
 99 | terms of 2 years, two members shall be appointed to terms of 3
 100 | years, and one member shall be appointed to a term of 4 years,

101 as established by rule of the boards. Council members may not
102 serve more than two consecutive terms. The council shall
103 annually elect a chairperson from among its members.

104 Section 2. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (2) of
105 section 459.022, Florida Statutes, and paragraphs (b) and (d) of
106 subsection (7) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (9) of
107 that section are amended, to read:

108 459.022 Physician assistants.—

109 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

110 (i) "Designated supervising physician" means a physician
111 designated by a facility or practice to be the primary contact
112 and supervising physician for the physician assistants in a
113 practice in which physician assistants are supervised by
114 multiple physicians.

115 (7) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.—

116 (b) The licensure must be renewed biennially. Each renewal
117 must include:

118 1. A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards.

119 2. Acknowledgment of no felony convictions in the previous
120 2 years.

121 3. Completion of a physician assistant workforce survey
122 which shall be administered in the same manner and have the same
123 content as the physician workforce survey required under s.

124 459.0081.

125 a. The department shall issue a nondisciplinary citation

126 to a physician assistant licensed under this chapter or chapter
127 458 who fails to complete the physician assistant workforce
128 survey within 90 days after the renewal of his or her license.

129 b. The citation must notify a physician assistant who
130 fails to complete the physician assistant workforce survey that
131 his or her license is not eligible for any subsequent license
132 renewal until he or she completes such survey.

133 c. In conjunction with the issuance of the license renewal
134 notice required by s. 456.038, the department shall notify each
135 physician assistant who has failed to complete the physician
136 assistant workforce survey at his or her last known address of
137 record with the department of the requirement that such survey
138 be completed before subsequent license renewal. The department
139 may not subsequently renew the license of a physician assistant
140 until he or she completes such survey.

141 d. Beginning July 1, 2018, and every 2 years thereafter,
142 the department shall report the data collected from the
143 physician assistant workforce surveys to the boards.

144 e. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to ss.
145 120.536(1) and 120.54 necessary to implement this subparagraph.

146 (d)1. Upon employment as a physician assistant, a licensed
147 physician assistant must notify the department in writing within
148 30 days after such employment of ~~or after any subsequent changes~~
149 ~~in the supervising physician. The notification must include the~~
150 full name, Florida medical license number, specialty, and

151 address of a supervising physician or designated ~~the~~ supervising
152 physician. A physician assistant shall report any subsequent
153 changes in a supervising physician or designated supervising
154 physician to the department within 30 days after the change. The
155 assignment of a designated supervising physician does not
156 preclude a physician assistant from practicing under the
157 supervision of a physician other than the designated supervising
158 physician.

159 2. The designated supervising physician shall maintain a
160 list of all approved supervising physicians at the facility or
161 practice, including each physician's name and area of practice,
162 and shall update the list as needed. The designated supervising
163 physician shall provide the list to the department in a timely
164 manner upon written request.

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166 Physician Assistants is created within the department.

167 (a) Beginning October 1, 2017, the council shall consist
168 of five members appointed as follows:

169 1. The chairperson of the Board of Medicine shall appoint
170 one member ~~three members~~ who is a physician ~~are physicians~~ and a
171 member ~~members~~ of the Board of Medicine. ~~One of~~ The physician
172 appointed by the Board of Medicine ~~physicians~~ must supervise a
173 physician assistant in the physician's practice.

174 2. The chairperson of the Board of Osteopathic Medicine
175 shall appoint one member who is a physician and a member of the

176 Board of Osteopathic Medicine. The physician appointed by the
177 Board of Osteopathic Medicine must supervise a physician
178 assistant in the physician's practice.

179 3. The State Surgeon General or her or his designee shall
180 appoint three ~~a~~ fully licensed physician assistants ~~assistant~~
181 licensed under chapter 458 or this chapter.

182 (b) ~~Two of the members appointed to the council must be~~
183 ~~physicians who supervise physician assistants in their practice.~~
184 Members shall be appointed to terms of 4 years, except that of
185 the initial appointments, two members shall be appointed to
186 terms of 2 years, two members shall be appointed to terms of 3
187 years, and one member shall be appointed to a term of 4 years,
188 as established by rule of the boards. Council members may not
189 serve more than two consecutive terms. The council shall
190 annually elect a chairperson from among its members.

191 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.