

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Department of Health; creating  
3           s. 456.4501, F.S.; implementing the Interstate Medical  
4           Licensure Compact in this state; providing for an  
5           interstate medical licensure process; providing  
6           requirements for multistate practice; creating s.  
7           456.4502, F.S.; establishing that a formal hearing  
8           before the Division of Administrative Hearings must be  
9           held if there are any disputed issues of material fact  
10          when the licenses of certain physicians and  
11          osteopathic physicians are suspended or revoked by  
12          this state under the compact; requiring the department  
13          to notify the division of a petition for a formal  
14          hearing within a specified timeframe; requiring the  
15          administrative law judge to issue a recommended order;  
16          requiring the Board of Medicine or the Board of  
17          Osteopathic Medicine, as applicable, to determine and  
18          issue final orders in certain cases; providing the  
19          department with standing to seek judicial review of  
20          any final order of the boards; creating s. 456.4503,  
21          F.S.; requiring the Interstate Medical Licensure  
22          Compact Commissioners to ensure that the Interstate  
23          Medical Licensure Compact Commission complies with  
24          specified public records and public meetings laws;  
25          creating s. 456.4504, F.S.; authorizing the department

26 | to adopt rules; creating s. 458.3129, F.S.;

27 | establishing that a physician licensed under the

28 | Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is deemed to be

29 | licensed as a physician under chapter 458, F.S.;

30 | creating s. 459.074, F.S.; establishing that an

31 | osteopathic physician licensed under the Interstate

32 | Medical Licensure Compact is deemed to be licensed as

33 | an osteopathic physician under chapter 459, F.S.;

34 | amending s. 464.0196, F.S.; revising the membership of

35 | the board of directors of the Florida Center for

36 | Nursing; deleting obsolete provisions; amending s.

37 | 491.003, F.S.; providing definitions; amending s.

38 | 491.004, F.S.; deleting an obsolete provision;

39 | amending s. 491.0045, F.S.; authorizing the Board of

40 | Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and

41 | Mental Health Counseling to make a one-time exception

42 | to intern registration requirements under certain

43 | circumstances; amending s. 491.005, F.S.; revising the

44 | licensure requirements for clinical social workers,

45 | marriage and family therapists, and mental health

46 | counselors; amending s. 491.0057, F.S.; requiring that

47 | an applicant for dual licensure as a marriage and

48 | family therapist pass an examination designated by the

49 | Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family

50 | Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling; amending s.

51 491.006, F.S.; revising requirements for licensure or  
52 certification by endorsement for certain professions;  
53 amending s. 491.007, F.S.; deleting a provision  
54 providing certified master social workers an exemption  
55 from continuing education requirements; deleting a  
56 provision requiring the board to establish a procedure  
57 for the biennial renewal of intern registrations;  
58 amending s. 491.009, F.S.; revising who may enter an  
59 order denying licensure or imposing penalties against  
60 an applicant for licensure under certain  
61 circumstances; amending s. 491.012, F.S.; providing  
62 that using the title "certified master social worker"  
63 without a valid, active license is unlawful; amending  
64 s. 491.0145, F.S.; requiring the department to license  
65 an applicant for designation as a certified master  
66 social worker under certain circumstances; providing  
67 that applicants for designation as a certified master  
68 social worker submit their application to the board;  
69 deleting a provision relating to the nonrefundable fee  
70 for examination set by department rule; authorizing  
71 the board to adopt rules; amending s. 491.0149, F.S.;  
72 requiring the use of applicable professional titles by  
73 specified licensees and registrants on social media  
74 and other specified materials; repealing s. 491.015,  
75 F.S., relating to duties of the department as to

76 certified master social workers; amending s. 768.28,  
 77 F.S.; designating the state commissioners of the  
 78 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission and  
 79 other members or employees of the commission as state  
 80 agents for the purpose of applying sovereign immunity  
 81 and waivers of sovereign immunity; requiring the  
 82 commission to pay certain claims or judgments;  
 83 authorizing the commission to maintain insurance  
 84 coverage to pay such claims or judgments; amending s.  
 85 414.065, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing  
 86 an effective date.

87

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

89

90 Section 1. Section 456.4501, Florida Statutes, is created  
 91 to read:

92 456.4501 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.—The  
 93 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is hereby enacted into law  
 94 and entered into by this state with all other jurisdictions  
 95 legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

96

97 SECTION 1

98 PURPOSE

99

100 In order to strengthen access to health care, and in

101 recognition of the advances in the delivery of health care, the  
 102 member states of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact have  
 103 allied in common purpose to develop a comprehensive process that  
 104 complements the existing licensing and regulatory authority of  
 105 state medical boards, provides a streamlined process that allows  
 106 physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby  
 107 enhancing the portability of a medical license and ensuring the  
 108 safety of patients. The Compact creates another pathway for  
 109 licensure and does not otherwise change a state's existing  
 110 Medical Practice Act. The Compact also adopts the prevailing  
 111 standard for licensure and affirms that the practice of medicine  
 112 occurs where the patient is located at the time of the  
 113 physician-patient encounter, and therefore, requires the  
 114 physician to be under the jurisdiction of the state medical  
 115 board where the patient is located. State medical boards that  
 116 participate in the Compact retain the jurisdiction to impose an  
 117 adverse action against a license to practice medicine in that  
 118 state issued to a physician through the procedures in the  
 119 Compact.

121 SECTION 2  
 122 DEFINITIONS

124 In this Compact:

125 (1) "Bylaws" means those bylaws established by the

126 Interstate Commission pursuant to section 11 for its governance,  
127 or for directing and controlling its actions and conduct.

128 (2) "Commissioner" means the voting representative  
129 appointed by each member board pursuant to section 11.

130 (3) "Conviction" means a finding by a court that an  
131 individual is guilty of a criminal offense through adjudication,  
132 or entry of a plea of guilt or no contest to the charge by the  
133 offender. Evidence of an entry of a conviction of a criminal  
134 offense by the court shall be considered final for purposes of  
135 disciplinary action by a member board.

136 (4) "Expedited license" means a full and unrestricted  
137 medical license granted by a member state to an eligible  
138 physician through the process set forth in the Compact.

139 (5) "Interstate Commission" means the Interstate Medical  
140 Licensure Compact Commission created pursuant to section 11.

141 (6) "License" means authorization by a state for a  
142 physician to engage in the practice of medicine, which would be  
143 unlawful without the authorization.

144 (7) "Medical Practice Act" means laws and regulations  
145 governing the practice of allopathic and osteopathic medicine  
146 within a member state.

147 (8) "Member board" means a state agency in a member state  
148 that acts in the sovereign interests of the state by protecting  
149 the public through licensure, regulation, and education of  
150 physicians as directed by the state government.

151        (9) "Member state" means a state that has enacted the  
152 Compact.

153        (10) "Practice of medicine" means the diagnosis,  
154 treatment, prevention, cure, or relieving of a human disease,  
155 ailment, defect, complaint, or other physical or mental  
156 condition, by attendance, advice, device, diagnostic test, or  
157 other means, or offering, undertaking, attempting to do, or  
158 holding oneself out as able to do, any of these acts.

159        (11) "Physician" means any person who:

160        (a) Is a graduate of a medical school accredited by the  
161 Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the Commission on  
162 Osteopathic College Accreditation, or a medical school listed in  
163 the International Medical Education Directory or its equivalent;

164        (b) Passed each component of the United States Medical  
165 Licensing Examination (USMLE) or the Comprehensive Osteopathic  
166 Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) within three  
167 attempts, or any of its predecessor examinations accepted by a  
168 state medical board as an equivalent examination for licensure  
169 purposes;

170        (c) Successfully completed graduate medical education  
171 approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical  
172 Education or the American Osteopathic Association;

173        (d) Holds specialty certification or a time-unlimited  
174 specialty certificate recognized by the American Board of  
175 Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association's

176 Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists; however, the specialty  
177 certification or a time-unlimited specialty certificate does not  
178 have to be maintained once a physician is initially determined  
179 to be eligible for expedited licensure through the Compact;

180 (e) Possesses a full and unrestricted license to engage in  
181 the practice of medicine issued by a member board;

182 (f) Has never been convicted, received adjudication,  
183 deferred adjudication, community supervision, or deferred  
184 disposition for any offense by a court of appropriate  
185 jurisdiction;

186 (g) Has never held a license authorizing the practice of  
187 medicine subjected to discipline by a licensing agency in any  
188 state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction, excluding any action  
189 related to non-payment of fees related to a license;

190 (h) Has never had a controlled substance license or permit  
191 suspended or revoked by a state or the United States Drug  
192 Enforcement Administration; and

193 (i) Is not under active investigation by a licensing  
194 agency or law enforcement authority in any state, federal, or  
195 foreign jurisdiction.

196 (12) "Offense" means a felony, high court misdemeanor, or  
197 crime of moral turpitude.

198 (13) "Rule" means a written statement by the Interstate  
199 Commission promulgated pursuant to section 12 of the Compact  
200 that is of general applicability, implements, interprets, or



201 prescribes a policy or provision of the Compact, or an  
 202 organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the  
 203 Interstate Commission, and has the force and effect of statutory  
 204 law in a member state, if the rule is not inconsistent with the  
 205 laws of the member state. The term includes the amendment,  
 206 repeal, or suspension of an existing rule.

207 (14) "State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or  
 208 territory of the United States.

209 (15) "State of principal license" means a member state  
 210 where a physician holds a license to practice medicine and which  
 211 has been designated as such by the physician for purposes of  
 212 registration and participation in the Compact.

214 SECTION 3

215 ELIGIBILITY

216  
 217 (1) A physician must meet the eligibility requirements as  
 218 defined in subsection (11) of section 2 to receive an expedited  
 219 license under the terms and provisions of the Compact.

220 (2) A physician who does not meet the requirements of  
 221 subsection (11) of section 2 may obtain a license to practice  
 222 medicine in a member state if the individual complies with all  
 223 laws and requirements, other than the Compact, relating to the  
 224 issuance of a license to practice medicine in that state.  
 225



251       (1) A physician seeking licensure through the Compact  
252 shall file an application for an expedited license with the  
253 member board of the state selected by the physician as the state  
254 of principal license.

255       (2) Upon receipt of an application for an expedited  
256 license, the member board within the state selected as the state  
257 of principal license shall evaluate whether the physician is  
258 eligible for expedited licensure and issue a letter of  
259 qualification, verifying or denying the physician's eligibility,  
260 to the Interstate Commission.

261       (a) Static qualifications, which include verification of  
262 medical education, graduate medical education, results of any  
263 medical or licensing examination, and other qualifications as  
264 determined by the Interstate Commission through rule, shall not  
265 be subject to additional primary source verification where  
266 already primary source verified by the state of principal  
267 license.

268       (b) The member board within the state selected as the  
269 state of principal license shall, in the course of verifying  
270 eligibility, perform a criminal background check of an  
271 applicant, including the use of the results of fingerprint or  
272 other biometric data checks compliant with the requirements of  
273 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the exception of  
274 federal employees who have suitability determination in  
275 accordance with U.S. 5 C.F.R. s. 731.202.

276 (c) Appeal on the determination of eligibility shall be  
277 made to the member state where the application was filed and  
278 shall be subject to the law of that state.

279 (3) Upon verification in subsection (2), physicians  
280 eligible for an expedited license shall complete the  
281 registration process established by the Interstate Commission to  
282 receive a license in a member state selected pursuant to  
283 subsection (1), including the payment of any applicable fees.

284 (4) After receiving verification of eligibility under  
285 subsection (2) and any fees under subsection (3), a member board  
286 shall issue an expedited license to the physician. This license  
287 shall authorize the physician to practice medicine in the  
288 issuing state consistent with the Medical Practice Act and all  
289 applicable laws and regulations of the issuing member board and  
290 member state.

291 (5) An expedited license shall be valid for a period  
292 consistent with the licensure period in the member state and in  
293 the same manner as required for other physicians holding a full  
294 and unrestricted license within the member state.

295 (6) An expedited license obtained through the Compact  
296 shall be terminated if a physician fails to maintain a license  
297 in the state of principal licensure for a non-disciplinary  
298 reason, without redesignation of a new state of principal  
299 licensure.

300 (7) The Interstate Commission is authorized to develop

301 rules regarding the application process, including payment of  
302 any applicable fees, and the issuance of an expedited license.

304 SECTION 6

305 FEEES FOR EXPEDITED LICENSURE

306  
307 (1) A member state issuing an expedited license  
308 authorizing the practice of medicine in that state, or the  
309 regulating authority of the member state, may impose a fee for a  
310 license issued or renewed through the Compact.

311 (2) The Interstate Commission is authorized to develop  
312 rules regarding fees for expedited licenses. However, those  
313 rules shall not limit the authority of a member state, or the  
314 regulating authority of the member state, to impose and  
315 determine the amount of a fee under subsection (1).

316  
317 SECTION 7

318 RENEWAL AND CONTINUED PARTICIPATION

319  
320 (1) A physician seeking to renew an expedited license  
321 granted in a member state shall complete a renewal process with  
322 the Interstate Commission if the physician:

323 (a) Maintains a full and unrestricted license in a state  
324 of principal license;

325 (b) Has not been convicted, received adjudication,

326 deferred adjudication, community supervision, or deferred  
327 disposition for any offense by a court of appropriate  
328 jurisdiction;

329 (c) Has not had a license authorizing the practice of  
330 medicine subject to discipline by a licensing agency in any  
331 state, federal, or foreign jurisdiction, excluding any action  
332 related to non-payment of fees related to a license; and

333 (d) Has not had a controlled substance license or permit  
334 suspended or revoked by a state or the United States Drug  
335 Enforcement Administration.

336 (2) Physicians shall comply with all continuing  
337 professional development or continuing medical education  
338 requirements for renewal of a license issued by a member state.

339 (3) The Interstate Commission shall collect any renewal  
340 fees charged for the renewal of a license and distribute the  
341 fees to the applicable member board.

342 (4) Upon receipt of any renewal fees collected in  
343 subsection (3), a member board shall renew the physician's  
344 license.

345 (5) Physician information collected by the Interstate  
346 Commission during the renewal process will be distributed to all  
347 member boards.

348 (6) The Interstate Commission is authorized to develop  
349 rules to address renewal of licenses obtained through the  
350 Compact.

## SECTION 8

COORDINATED INFORMATION SYSTEM

351  
352  
353  
354  
355 (1) The Interstate Commission shall establish a database  
356 of all physicians licensed, or who have applied for licensure,  
357 under section 5.

358 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, member  
359 boards shall report to the Interstate Commission any public  
360 action or complaints against a licensed physician who has  
361 applied or received an expedited license through the Compact.

362 (3) Member boards shall report disciplinary or  
363 investigatory information determined as necessary and proper by  
364 rule of the Interstate Commission.

365 (4) Member boards may report any non-public complaint,  
366 disciplinary, or investigatory information not required by  
367 subsection (3) to the Interstate Commission.

368 (5) Member boards shall share complaint or disciplinary  
369 information about a physician upon request of another member  
370 board.

371 (6) All information provided to the Interstate Commission  
372 or distributed by member boards shall be confidential, filed  
373 under seal, and used only for investigatory or disciplinary  
374 matters.

375 (7) The Interstate Commission is authorized to develop

376 rules for mandated or discretionary sharing of information by  
377 member boards.

379 SECTION 9

380 JOINT INVESTIGATIONS

381  
382 (1) Licensure and disciplinary records of physicians are  
383 deemed investigative.

384 (2) In addition to the authority granted to a member board  
385 by its respective Medical Practice Act or other applicable state  
386 law, a member board may participate with other member boards in  
387 joint investigations of physicians licensed by the member  
388 boards.

389 (3) A subpoena issued by a member state shall be  
390 enforceable in other member states.

391 (4) Member boards may share any investigative, litigation,  
392 or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or  
393 individual investigation initiated under the Compact.

394 (5) Any member state may investigate actual or alleged  
395 violations of the statutes authorizing the practice of medicine  
396 in any other member state in which a physician holds a license  
397 to practice medicine.

398  
399 SECTION 10

400 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS



401  
402       (1) Any disciplinary action taken by any member board  
403 against a physician licensed through the Compact shall be deemed  
404 unprofessional conduct which may be subject to discipline by  
405 other member boards, in addition to any violation of the Medical  
406 Practice Act or regulations in that state.

407       (2) If a license granted to a physician by the member  
408 board in the state of principal license is revoked, surrendered  
409 or relinquished in lieu of discipline, or suspended, then all  
410 licenses issued to the physician by member boards shall  
411 automatically be placed, without further action necessary by any  
412 member board, on the same status. If the member board in the  
413 state of principal license subsequently reinstates the  
414 physician's license, a license issued to the physician by any  
415 other member board shall remain encumbered until that respective  
416 member board takes action to reinstate the license in a manner  
417 consistent with the Medical Practice Act of that state.

418       (3) If disciplinary action is taken against a physician by  
419 a member board not in the state of principal license, any other  
420 member board may deem the action conclusive as to matter of law  
421 and fact decided, and:

422           (a) Impose the same or lesser sanction(s) against the  
423 physician so long as such sanctions are consistent with the  
424 Medical Practice Act of that state; or

425           (b) Pursue separate disciplinary action against the

426 physician under its respective Medical Practice Act, regardless  
427 of the action taken in other member states.

428 (4) If a license granted to a physician by a member board  
429 is revoked, surrendered or relinquished in lieu of discipline,  
430 or suspended, then any license(s) issued to the physician by any  
431 other member board(s) shall be suspended, automatically and  
432 immediately without further action necessary by the other member  
433 board(s), for ninety (90) days upon entry of the order by the  
434 disciplining board, to permit the member board(s) to investigate  
435 the basis for the action under the Medical Practice Act of that  
436 state. A member board may terminate the automatic suspension of  
437 the license it issued prior to the completion of the ninety (90)  
438 day suspension period in a manner consistent with the Medical  
439 Practice Act of that state.

440

441 SECTION 11

442 INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT COMMISSION

443

444 (1) The member states hereby create the "Interstate  
445 Medical Licensure Compact Commission."

446 (2) The purpose of the Interstate Commission is the  
447 administration of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact,  
448 which is a discretionary state function.

449 (3) The Interstate Commission shall be a body corporate  
450 and joint agency of the member states and shall have all the

451 responsibilities, powers, and duties set forth in the Compact,  
452 and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by a  
453 subsequent concurrent action of the respective legislatures of  
454 the member states in accordance with the terms of the Compact.

455 (4) The Interstate Commission shall consist of two voting  
456 representatives appointed by each member state who shall serve  
457 as Commissioners. In states where allopathic and osteopathic  
458 physicians are regulated by separate member boards, or if the  
459 licensing and disciplinary authority is split between multiple  
460 member boards within a member state, the member state shall  
461 appoint one representative from each member board. A  
462 Commissioner shall be a(n):

463 (a) Allopathic or osteopathic physician appointed to a  
464 member board;

465 (b) Executive director, executive secretary, or similar  
466 executive of a member board; or

467 (c) Member of the public appointed to a member board.

468 (5) The Interstate Commission shall meet at least once  
469 each calendar year. A portion of this meeting shall be a  
470 business meeting to address such matters as may properly come  
471 before the Commission, including the election of officers. The  
472 chairperson may call additional meetings and shall call for a  
473 meeting upon the request of a majority of the member states.

474 (6) The bylaws may provide for meetings of the Interstate  
475 Commission to be conducted by telecommunication or electronic

476 communication.

477 (7) Each Commissioner participating at a meeting of the  
478 Interstate Commission is entitled to one vote. A majority of  
479 Commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of  
480 business, unless a larger quorum is required by the bylaws of  
481 the Interstate Commission. A Commissioner shall not delegate a  
482 vote to another Commissioner. In the absence of its  
483 Commissioner, a member state may delegate voting authority for a  
484 specified meeting to another person from that state who shall  
485 meet the requirements of subsection (4).

486 (8) The Interstate Commission shall provide public notice  
487 of all meetings and all meetings shall be open to the public.  
488 The Interstate Commission may close a meeting, in full or in  
489 portion, where it determines by a two-thirds vote of the  
490 Commissioners present that an open meeting would be likely to:

491 (a) Relate solely to the internal personnel practices and  
492 procedures of the Interstate Commission;

493 (b) Discuss matters specifically exempted from disclosure  
494 by federal statute;

495 (c) Discuss trade secrets, commercial, or financial  
496 information that is privileged or confidential;

497 (d) Involve accusing a person of a crime, or formally  
498 censuring a person;

499 (e) Discuss information of a personal nature where  
500 disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of

501 personal privacy;

502 (f) Discuss investigative records compiled for law  
503 enforcement purposes; or

504 (g) Specifically relate to the participation in a civil  
505 action or other legal proceeding.

506 (9) The Interstate Commission shall keep minutes which  
507 shall fully describe all matters discussed in a meeting and  
508 shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken,  
509 including record of any roll call votes.

510 (10) The Interstate Commission shall make its information  
511 and official records, to the extent not otherwise designated in  
512 the Compact or by its rules, available to the public for  
513 inspection.

514 (11) The Interstate Commission shall establish an  
515 executive committee, which shall include officers, members, and  
516 others as determined by the bylaws. The executive committee  
517 shall have the power to act on behalf of the Interstate  
518 Commission, with the exception of rulemaking, during periods  
519 when the Interstate Commission is not in session. When acting on  
520 behalf of the Interstate Commission, the executive committee  
521 shall oversee the administration of the Compact including  
522 enforcement and compliance with the provisions of the Compact,  
523 its bylaws and rules, and other such duties as necessary.

524 (12) The Interstate Commission may establish other  
525 committees for governance and administration of the Compact.

SECTION 12

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

The Interstate Commission shall have the duty and power to:

- 531 (1) Oversee and maintain the administration of the  
532 Compact;
- 533 (2) Promulgate rules which shall be binding to the extent  
534 and in the manner provided for in the Compact;
- 535 (3) Issue, upon the request of a member state or member  
536 board, advisory opinions concerning the meaning or  
537 interpretation of the Compact, its bylaws, rules, and actions;
- 538 (4) Enforce compliance with Compact provisions, the rules  
539 promulgated by the Interstate Commission, and the bylaws, using  
540 all necessary and proper means, including but not limited to the  
541 use of judicial process;
- 542 (5) Establish and appoint committees including, but not  
543 limited to, an executive committee as required by section 11,  
544 which shall have the power to act on behalf of the Interstate  
545 Commission in carrying out its powers and duties;
- 546 (6) Pay, or provide for the payment of the expenses  
547 related to the establishment, organization, and ongoing  
548 activities of the Interstate Commission;
- 549 (7) Establish and maintain one or more offices;
- 550 (8) Borrow, accept, hire, or contract for services of

551 personnel;  
 552 (9) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;  
 553 (10) Employ an executive director who shall have such  
 554 powers to employ, select or appoint employees, agents, or  
 555 consultants, and to determine their qualifications, define their  
 556 duties, and fix their compensation;  
 557 (11) Establish personnel policies and programs relating to  
 558 conflicts of interest, rates of compensation, and qualifications  
 559 of personnel;  
 560 (12) Accept donations and grants of money, equipment,  
 561 supplies, materials and services, and to receive, utilize, and  
 562 dispose of it in a manner consistent with the conflict of  
 563 interest policies established by the Interstate Commission;  
 564 (13) Lease, purchase, accept contributions or donations  
 565 of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or use, any property,  
 566 real, personal, or mixed;  
 567 (14) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,  
 568 abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal,  
 569 or mixed;  
 570 (15) Establish a budget and make expenditures;  
 571 (16) Adopt a seal and bylaws governing the management and  
 572 operation of the Interstate Commission;  
 573 (17) Report annually to the legislatures and governors of  
 574 the member states concerning the activities of the Interstate  
 575 Commission during the preceding year. Such reports shall also

576 include reports of financial audits and any recommendations that  
 577 may have been adopted by the Interstate Commission;

578 (18) Coordinate education, training, and public awareness  
 579 regarding the Compact, its implementation, and its operation;

580 (19) Maintain records in accordance with the bylaws;

581 (20) Seek and obtain trademarks, copyrights, and patents;

582 and

583 (21) Perform such functions as may be necessary or  
 584 appropriate to achieve the purposes of the Compact.

585  
 586 SECTION 13

587 FINANCE POWERS

588  
 589 (1) The Interstate Commission may levy on and collect an  
 590 annual assessment from each member state to cover the cost of  
 591 the operations and activities of the Interstate Commission and  
 592 its staff. The total assessment, subject to appropriation, must  
 593 be sufficient to cover the annual budget approved each year for  
 594 which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate  
 595 annual assessment amount shall be allocated upon a formula to be  
 596 determined by the Interstate Commission, which shall promulgate  
 597 a rule binding upon all member states.

598 (2) The Interstate Commission shall not incur obligations  
 599 of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the  
 600 same.



601       (3) The Interstate Commission shall not pledge the credit  
602 of any of the member states, except by, and with the authority  
603 of, the member state.

604       (4) The Interstate Commission shall be subject to a yearly  
605 financial audit conducted by a certified or licensed public  
606 accountant and the report of the audit shall be included in the  
607 annual report of the Interstate Commission.

608  
609                                   SECTION 14

610                   ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

611  
612       (1) The Interstate Commission shall, by a majority of  
613 Commissioners present and voting, adopt bylaws to govern its  
614 conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the  
615 purposes of the Compact within twelve (12) months of the first  
616 Interstate Commission meeting.

617       (2) The Interstate Commission shall elect or appoint  
618 annually from among its Commissioners a chairperson, a vice-  
619 chairperson, and a treasurer, each of whom shall have such  
620 authority and duties as may be specified in the bylaws. The  
621 chairperson, or in the chairperson's absence or disability, the  
622 vice-chairperson, shall preside at all meetings of the  
623 Interstate Commission.

624       (3) Officers selected in subsection (2) shall serve  
625 without remuneration from the Interstate Commission.

626       (4) The officers and employees of the Interstate  
627 Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either  
628 personally or in their official capacity, for a claim for damage  
629 to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil  
630 liability caused or arising out of, or relating to, an actual or  
631 alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that such  
632 person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the  
633 scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties, or  
634 responsibilities; provided that such person shall not be  
635 protected from suit or liability for damage, loss, injury, or  
636 liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton  
637 misconduct of such person.

638       (a) The liability of the executive director and employees  
639 of the Interstate Commission or representatives of the  
640 Interstate Commission, acting within the scope of such person's  
641 employment or duties for acts, errors, or omissions occurring  
642 within such person's state, may not exceed the limits of  
643 liability set forth under the constitution and laws of that  
644 state for state officials, employees, and agents. The Interstate  
645 Commission is considered to be an instrumentality of the states  
646 for the purposes of any such action. Nothing in this subsection  
647 shall be construed to protect such person from suit or liability  
648 for damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional  
649 or willful and wanton misconduct of such person.

650       (b) The Interstate Commission shall defend the executive

651 director, its employees, and subject to the approval of the  
652 attorney general or other appropriate legal counsel of the  
653 member state represented by an Interstate Commission  
654 representative, shall defend such Interstate Commission  
655 representative in any civil action seeking to impose liability  
656 arising out of an actual or alleged act, error or omission that  
657 occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission employment,  
658 duties or responsibilities, or that the defendant had a  
659 reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of  
660 Interstate Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities,  
661 provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did  
662 not result from intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on  
663 the part of such person.

664 (c) To the extent not covered by the state involved,  
665 member state, or the Interstate Commission, the representatives  
666 or employees of the Interstate Commission shall be held harmless  
667 in the amount of a settlement or judgment, including attorney's  
668 fees and costs, obtained against such persons arising out of an  
669 actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within  
670 the scope of Interstate Commission employment, duties, or  
671 responsibilities, or that such persons had a reasonable basis  
672 for believing occurred within the scope of Interstate Commission  
673 employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the  
674 actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from  
675 intentional or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of such

676 persons.

677  
678 SECTION 15

679 RULEMAKING FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION

680  
681 (1) The Interstate Commission shall promulgate reasonable  
682 rules in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the  
683 purposes of the Compact. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the  
684 event the Interstate Commission exercises its rulemaking  
685 authority in a manner that is beyond the scope of the purposes  
686 of the Compact, or the powers granted hereunder, then such an  
687 action by the Interstate Commission shall be invalid and have no  
688 force or effect.

689 (2) Rules deemed appropriate for the operations of the  
690 Interstate Commission shall be made pursuant to a rulemaking  
691 process that substantially conforms to the "Model State  
692 Administrative Procedure Act" of 2010, and subsequent amendments  
693 thereto.

694 (3) Not later than thirty (30) days after a rule is  
695 promulgated, any person may file a petition for judicial review  
696 of the rule in the United States District Court for the District  
697 of Columbia or the federal district where the Interstate  
698 Commission has its principal offices, provided that the filing  
699 of such a petition shall not stay or otherwise prevent the rule  
700 from becoming effective unless the court finds that the

701 petitioner has a substantial likelihood of success. The court  
702 shall give deference to the actions of the Interstate Commission  
703 consistent with applicable law and shall not find the rule to be  
704 unlawful if the rule represents a reasonable exercise of the  
705 authority granted to the Interstate Commission.

706  
707 SECTION 16

708 OVERSIGHT OF INTERSTATE COMPACT

709  
710 (1) The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of  
711 state government in each member state shall enforce the Compact  
712 and shall take all actions necessary and appropriate to  
713 effectuate the Compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of  
714 the Compact and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have  
715 standing as statutory law but shall not override existing state  
716 authority to regulate the practice of medicine.

717 (2) All courts shall take judicial notice of the Compact  
718 and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a  
719 member state pertaining to the subject matter of the Compact  
720 which may affect the powers, responsibilities or actions of the  
721 Interstate Commission.

722 (3) The Interstate Commission shall be entitled to receive  
723 all service of process in any such proceeding, and shall have  
724 standing to intervene in the proceeding for all purposes.  
725 Failure to provide service of process to the Interstate

726 Commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the  
727 Interstate Commission, the Compact, or promulgated rules.

728  
729 SECTION 17

730 ENFORCEMENT OF INTERSTATE COMPACT

731  
732 (1) The Interstate Commission, in the reasonable exercise  
733 of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of the  
734 Compact.

735 (2) The Interstate Commission may, by majority vote of the  
736 Commissioners, initiate legal action in the United States  
737 District Court for the District of Columbia, or, at the  
738 discretion of the Interstate Commission, in the federal district  
739 where the Interstate Commission has its principal offices, to  
740 enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact, and its  
741 promulgated rules and bylaws, against a member state in default.  
742 The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and  
743 damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the  
744 prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation  
745 including reasonable attorney's fees.

746 (3) The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive  
747 remedies of the Interstate Commission. The Interstate Commission  
748 may avail itself of any other remedies available under state law  
749 or the regulation of a profession.

SECTION 18

DEFAULT PROCEDURES

751  
752  
753  
754 (1) The grounds for default include, but are not limited  
755 to, failure of a member state to perform such obligations or  
756 responsibilities imposed upon it by the Compact, or the rules  
757 and bylaws of the Interstate Commission promulgated under the  
758 Compact.

759 (2) If the Interstate Commission determines that a member  
760 state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or  
761 responsibilities under the Compact, or the bylaws or promulgated  
762 rules, the Interstate Commission shall:

763 (a) Provide written notice to the defaulting state and  
764 other member states, of the nature of the default, the means of  
765 curing the default, and any action taken by the Interstate  
766 Commission. The Interstate Commission shall specify the  
767 conditions by which the defaulting state must cure its default;  
768 and

769 (b) Provide remedial training and specific technical  
770 assistance regarding the default.

771 (3) If the defaulting state fails to cure the default, the  
772 defaulting state shall be terminated from the Compact upon an  
773 affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners and all  
774 rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by the Compact shall  
775 terminate on the effective date of termination. A cure of the

776 default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or  
 777 liabilities incurred during the period of the default.

778 (4) Termination of membership in the Compact shall be  
 779 imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have  
 780 been exhausted. Notice of intent to terminate shall be given by  
 781 the Interstate Commission to the governor, the majority and  
 782 minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, and each  
 783 of the member states.

784 (5) The Interstate Commission shall establish rules and  
 785 procedures to address licenses and physicians that are  
 786 materially impacted by the termination of a member state, or the  
 787 withdrawal of a member state.

788 (6) The member state which has been terminated is  
 789 responsible for all dues, obligations, and liabilities incurred  
 790 through the effective date of termination including obligations,  
 791 the performance of which extends beyond the effective date of  
 792 termination.

793 (7) The Interstate Commission shall not bear any costs  
 794 relating to any state that has been found to be in default or  
 795 which has been terminated from the Compact, unless otherwise  
 796 mutually agreed upon in writing between the Interstate  
 797 Commission and the defaulting state.

798 (8) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the  
 799 Interstate Commission by petitioning the United States District  
 800 Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where



801 the Interstate Commission has its principal offices. The  
802 prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation  
803 including reasonable attorney's fees.

805 SECTION 19

806 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

807  
808 (1) The Interstate Commission shall attempt, upon the  
809 request of a member state, to resolve disputes which are subject  
810 to the Compact and which may arise among member states or member  
811 boards.

812 (2) The Interstate Commission shall promulgate rules  
813 providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution as  
814 appropriate.

815  
816 SECTION 20

817 MEMBER STATES, EFFECTIVE DATE AND AMENDMENT

818  
819 (1) Any state is eligible to become a member state of the  
820 Compact.

821 (2) The Compact shall become effective and binding upon  
822 legislative enactment of the Compact into law by no less than  
823 seven (7) states. Thereafter, it shall become effective and  
824 binding on a state upon enactment of the Compact into law by  
825 that state.

826       (3) The governors of non-member states, or their  
827 designees, shall be invited to participate in the activities of  
828 the Interstate Commission on a non-voting basis prior to  
829 adoption of the Compact by all states.

830       (4) The Interstate Commission may propose amendments to  
831 the Compact for enactment by the member states. No amendment  
832 shall become effective and binding upon the Interstate  
833 Commission and the member states unless and until it is enacted  
834 into law by unanimous consent of the member states.

835  
836                               SECTION 21

837                               WITHDRAWAL

838  
839       (1) Once effective, the Compact shall continue in force  
840 and remain binding upon each and every member state; provided  
841 that a member state may withdraw from the Compact by  
842 specifically repealing the statute which enacted the Compact  
843 into law.

844       (2) Withdrawal from the Compact shall be by the enactment  
845 of a statute repealing the same, but shall not take effect until  
846 one (1) year after the effective date of such statute and until  
847 written notice of the withdrawal has been given by the  
848 withdrawing state to the governor of each other member state.

849       (3) The withdrawing state shall immediately notify the  
850 chairperson of the Interstate Commission in writing upon the

851 introduction of legislation repealing the Compact in the  
852 withdrawing state.

853 (4) The Interstate Commission shall notify the other  
854 member states of the withdrawing state's intent to withdraw  
855 within sixty (60) days of its receipt of notice provided under  
856 subsection (3).

857 (5) The withdrawing state is responsible for all dues,  
858 obligations and liabilities incurred through the effective date  
859 of withdrawal, including obligations, the performance of which  
860 extend beyond the effective date of withdrawal.

861 (6) Reinstatement following withdrawal of a member state  
862 shall occur upon the withdrawing state reenacting the Compact or  
863 upon such later date as determined by the Interstate Commission.

864 (7) The Interstate Commission is authorized to develop  
865 rules to address the impact of the withdrawal of a member state  
866 on licenses granted in other member states to physicians who  
867 designated the withdrawing member state as the state of  
868 principal license.

869  
870 SECTION 22

871 DISSOLUTION

872  
873 (1) The Compact shall dissolve effective upon the date of  
874 the withdrawal or default of the member state which reduces the  
875 membership in the Compact to one (1) member state.

876        (2) Upon the dissolution of the Compact, the Compact  
877 becomes null and void and shall be of no further force or  
878 effect, and the business and affairs of the Interstate  
879 Commission shall be concluded and surplus funds shall be  
880 distributed in accordance with the bylaws.

881

882                                    SECTION 23

883

883                                    SEVERABILITY AND CONSTRUCTION

884

885

885        (1) The provisions of the Compact shall be severable, and  
886 if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision is deemed  
887 unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the Compact shall be  
888 enforceable.

889

889        (2) The provisions of the Compact shall be liberally  
890 construed to effectuate its purposes.

891

891        (3) Nothing in the Compact shall be construed to prohibit  
892 the applicability of other interstate compacts to which the  
893 states are members.

894

895                                    SECTION 24

896

896                                    BINDING EFFECT OF COMPACT AND OTHER LAWS

897

898        (1) Nothing herein prevents the enforcement of any other  
899 law of a member state that is not inconsistent with the Compact.

900

900        (2) All laws in a member state in conflict with the

901 Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

902 (3) All lawful actions of the Interstate Commission,  
 903 including all rules and bylaws promulgated by the Commission,  
 904 are binding upon the member states.

905 (4) All agreements between the Interstate Commission and  
 906 the member states are binding in accordance with their terms.

907 (5) In the event any provision of the Compact exceeds the  
 908 constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member  
 909 state, such provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the  
 910 conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that  
 911 member state.

912 Section 2. Section 456.4502, Florida Statutes, is created  
 913 to read:

914 456.4502 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact;  
 915 disciplinary proceedings.—A physician licensed pursuant to  
 916 chapter 458, chapter 459, or s. 456.4501 whose license is  
 917 suspended or revoked by this state pursuant to the Interstate  
 918 Medical Licensure Compact as a result of disciplinary action  
 919 taken against the physician's license in another state shall be  
 920 granted a formal hearing before an administrative law judge from  
 921 the Division of Administrative Hearings held pursuant to chapter  
 922 120 if there are any disputed issues of material fact. In such  
 923 proceedings:

924 (1) Notwithstanding s. 120.569(2), the department shall  
 925 notify the division within 45 days after receipt of a petition

926 | or request for a formal hearing.

927 |       (2) The determination of whether the physician has  
 928 | violated the laws and rules regulating the practice of medicine  
 929 | or osteopathic medicine, as applicable, including a  
 930 | determination of the reasonable standard of care, is a  
 931 | conclusion of law that is to be determined by appropriate board,  
 932 | and is not a finding of fact to be determined by an  
 933 | administrative law judge.

934 |       (3) The administrative law judge shall issue a recommended  
 935 | order pursuant to chapter 120.

936 |       (4) The Board of Medicine or the Board of Osteopathic  
 937 | Medicine, as applicable, shall determine and issue the final  
 938 | order in each disciplinary case. Such order shall constitute  
 939 | final agency action.

940 |       (5) Any consent order or agreed-upon settlement is subject  
 941 | to the approval of the department.

942 |       (6) The department shall have standing to seek judicial  
 943 | review of any final order of the board, pursuant to s. 120.68.

944 |       Section 3. Section 456.4503, Florida Statutes, is created  
 945 | to read:

946 |       456.4503 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact  
 947 | Commissioners.—The duly appointed commissioners to the  
 948 | Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission under s.  
 949 | 456.4501 shall ensure that the Interstate Medical Licensure  
 950 | Compact Commission complies with the requirements of chapter 119

951 and s. 24, Art. I of the State Constitution.

952 Section 4. Section 456.4504, Florida Statutes, is created  
953 to read:

954 456.4504 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Rules.—The  
955 department may adopt rules to implement the Interstate Medical  
956 Licensure Compact.

957 Section 5. Section 458.3129, Florida Statutes, is created  
958 to read:

959 458.3129 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.—A physician  
960 licensed to practice medicine under s. 456.4501 is deemed to be  
961 licensed as a physician under this chapter.

962 Section 6. Section 459.074, Florida Statutes, is created  
963 to read:

964 459.074 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.—A physician  
965 licensed to practice osteopathic medicine under s. 456.4501 is  
966 deemed to be licensed as an osteopathic physician under this  
967 chapter.

968 Section 7. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 464.0196,  
969 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

970 464.0196 Florida Center for Nursing; board of directors.—

971 (1) The Florida Center for Nursing shall be governed by a  
972 policy-setting board of directors. The board shall consist of 16  
973 members, with a simple majority of the board being nurses  
974 representative of various practice areas. Other members shall  
975 include representatives of other health care professions,

976 business and industry, health care providers, and consumers. The  
 977 members of the board shall be appointed by the Governor as  
 978 follows:

979 (a) Four members recommended by the President of the  
 980 Senate, ~~at least one of whom shall be a registered nurse~~  
 981 ~~recommended by the Florida Organization of Nurse Executives and~~  
 982 ~~at least one other representative of the hospital industry~~  
 983 ~~recommended by the Florida Hospital Association;~~

984 (b) Four members recommended by the Speaker of the House  
 985 of Representatives, ~~at least one of whom shall be a registered~~  
 986 ~~nurse recommended by the Florida Nurses Association and at least~~  
 987 ~~one other representative of the long-term care industry;~~

988 (c) Four members recommended by the Governor, ~~two of whom~~  
 989 ~~shall be registered nurses;~~

990 (d) One nurse educator recommended by the Board of  
 991 Governors ~~who is a dean of a College of Nursing at a state~~  
 992 ~~university; and~~

993 (e) Three nurse educators recommended by the State Board  
 994 of Education, ~~one of whom must be a director of a nursing~~  
 995 ~~program at a Florida College System institution.~~

996 (2) ~~The initial terms of the members shall be as follows:~~

997 ~~(a) Of the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) (a),~~  
 998 ~~two shall be appointed for terms expiring June 30, 2005, one for~~  
 999 ~~a term expiring June 30, 2004, and one for a term expiring June~~  
 1000 ~~30, 2003.~~



1001 ~~(b) Of the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) (b),~~  
1002 ~~one shall be appointed for a term expiring June 30, 2005, two~~  
1003 ~~for terms expiring June 30, 2004, and one for a term expiring~~  
1004 ~~June 20, 2003.~~

1005 ~~(c) Of the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) (c),~~  
1006 ~~one shall be appointed for a term expiring June 30, 2005, one~~  
1007 ~~for a term expiring June 30, 2004, and two for terms expiring~~  
1008 ~~June 30, 2003.~~

1009 ~~(d) Of the members appointed pursuant to paragraph (1) (d),~~  
1010 ~~the terms of two members recommended by the State Board of~~  
1011 ~~Education shall expire June 30, 2005; the term of the member who~~  
1012 ~~is a dean of a College of Nursing at a state university shall~~  
1013 ~~expire June 30, 2004; and the term of the member who is a~~  
1014 ~~director of a state community college nursing program shall~~  
1015 ~~expire June 30, 2003.~~

1016  
1017 ~~After the initial appointments expire,~~ The terms of all the  
1018 members shall be for 3 years, with no member serving more than  
1019 two consecutive terms.

1020 Section 8. Subsections (2) through (7) of section 491.003,  
1021 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through (8),  
1022 respectively, present subsections (8) through (17) are  
1023 renumbered as subsections (10) through (19), respectively, and  
1024 new subsections (2) and (9) are added to that section to read:

1025 491.003 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

1026           (2) "Certified master social worker" means a person  
 1027 licensed under this chapter to practice generalist social work.

1028           (9) "Practice of generalist social work" means the  
 1029 application of social work theory, knowledge, methods, and  
 1030 ethics, and the professional use of self to restore or enhance  
 1031 social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of  
 1032 individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations, and  
 1033 communities. The term includes the application of specialized  
 1034 knowledge and advanced practice skills in nondiagnostic  
 1035 assessment, treatment planning, implementation and evaluation,  
 1036 case management, information and referral, supervision,  
 1037 consultation, education, research, advocacy, community  
 1038 organization, and the development, implementation, and  
 1039 administration of policies, programs, and activities.

1040           Section 9. Subsections (4) through (7) of section 491.004,  
 1041 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through (6),  
 1042 respectively, and present subsections (3) and (4) of that  
 1043 section are amended to read:

1044           491.004 Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family  
 1045 Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling.—

1046           ~~(3) No later than January 1, 1988, the Governor shall~~  
 1047 ~~appoint nine members of the board as follows:~~

1048           ~~(a) Three members for terms of 2 years each.~~

1049           ~~(b) Three members for terms of 3 years each.~~

1050           ~~(c) Three members for terms of 4 years each.~~

1051        ~~(3)-(4)~~ As the terms of the ~~initial~~ members expire, the  
1052 Governor shall appoint successors for terms of 4 years; and  
1053 those members shall serve until their successors are appointed.

1054        Section 10. Subsection (6) of section 491.0045, Florida  
1055 Statutes, is amended to read:

1056        491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

1057        (6) A registration issued on or before March 31, 2017,  
1058 expires March 31, 2022, and may not be renewed or reissued. Any  
1059 registration issued after March 31, 2017, expires 60 months  
1060 after the date it is issued. The board may make a one-time  
1061 exception from the requirements of this section in emergency or  
1062 hardship cases, as defined by board rule, if ~~A subsequent intern~~  
1063 ~~registration may not be issued unless~~ the candidate has passed  
1064 the theory and practice examination described in s.  
1065 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), and (4)(d).

1066        Section 11. Subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection  
1067 (2), and subsections (3) and (4) of section 491.005, Florida  
1068 Statutes, are amended to read:

1069        491.005 Licensure by examination.—

1070        (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of  
1071 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
1072 board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost ~~to the department~~  
1073 for purchase of the examination from the ~~American~~ Association of  
1074 State Social Work Worker's Boards or its successor ~~a similar~~  
1075 ~~national organization~~, the department shall issue a license as a

1076 clinical social worker to an applicant who the board certifies:  
 1077 (a) Has submitted an application and paid the appropriate  
 1078 fee.  
 1079 (b)1. Has received a doctoral degree in social work from a  
 1080 graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant  
 1081 graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by  
 1082 the United States Department of Education or has received a  
 1083 master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social  
 1084 work which at the time the applicant graduated:  
 1085 a. Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;  
 1086 b. Was accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools  
 1087 of Social Work; or  
 1088 c. Has been determined to have been a program equivalent  
 1089 to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by  
 1090 the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on  
 1091 Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program  
 1092 at a university or college outside of the United States or  
 1093 Canada must present documentation of the equivalency  
 1094 determination from the council in order to qualify.  
 1095 2. The applicant's graduate program must have emphasized  
 1096 direct clinical patient or client health care services,  
 1097 including, but not limited to, coursework in clinical social  
 1098 work, psychiatric social work, medical social work, social  
 1099 casework, psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's  
 1100 graduate program must have included all of the following

1101 coursework:

1102 a. A supervised field placement which was part of the  
1103 applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during  
1104 which the applicant provided clinical services directly to  
1105 clients.

1106 b. Completion of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in  
1107 courses approved by board rule ~~theory of human behavior and~~  
1108 ~~practice methods as courses in clinically oriented services,~~  
1109 ~~including a minimum of one course in psychopathology, and no~~  
1110 ~~more than one course in research, taken in a school of social~~  
1111 ~~work accredited or approved pursuant to subparagraph 1.~~

1112 ~~3. If the course title which appears on the applicant's~~  
1113 ~~transcript does not clearly identify the content of the~~  
1114 ~~coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide~~  
1115 ~~additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a~~  
1116 ~~syllabus or catalog description published for the course.~~

1117 (c) Has had at least 2 years of clinical social work  
1118 experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a  
1119 graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the  
1120 accreditation requirements of this section, under the  
1121 supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the  
1122 equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the  
1123 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to  
1124 satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant  
1125 to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's

1126 graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct  
 1127 clinical patient or client health care services as described in  
 1128 subparagraph (b)2., the supervised experience requirement must  
 1129 take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of 15  
 1130 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required. A  
 1131 doctoral internship may be applied toward the clinical social  
 1132 work experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
 1133 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
 1134 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1135 (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination  
 1136 designated ~~provided~~ by the board ~~department~~ ~~for this purpose~~.

1137 (e) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule  
 1138 ~~of the board~~, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
 1139 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
 1140 and mental health counseling.

1141 (2) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—

1142 (b) An applicant from a master's or doctoral program in  
 1143 social work which did not emphasize direct patient or client  
 1144 services may complete the clinical curriculum content  
 1145 requirement by returning to a graduate program accredited by the  
 1146 Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association for  
 1147 Social Work Education ~~of Schools of Social Work~~, or to a  
 1148 clinical social work graduate program with comparable standards,  
 1149 in order to complete the education requirements for examination.  
 1150 However, a maximum of 6 semester or 9 quarter hours of the

1151 clinical curriculum content requirement may be completed by  
1152 credit awarded for independent study coursework as defined by  
1153 board rule.

1154 (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of  
1155 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
1156 board rule, plus the actual cost ~~to the department~~ for the  
1157 purchase of the examination from the Association of Marital and  
1158 Family Therapy Regulatory Boards Board, or its successor ~~similar~~  
1159 ~~national~~ organization, the department shall issue a license as a  
1160 marriage and family therapist to an applicant who the board  
1161 certifies:

1162 (a) Has submitted an application and paid the appropriate  
1163 fee.

1164 (b)~~1.~~ Has a minimum of a master's degree with major  
1165 emphasis in marriage and family therapy from a program  
1166 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and  
1167 Family Therapy Education or from a state university program  
1168 accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and  
1169 Related Educational Programs, or a closely related field, and  
1170 graduate courses approved by the Board of Clinical Social Work,  
1171 Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling. ~~has~~  
1172 ~~completed all of the following requirements:~~

1173 a. ~~Thirty six semester hours or 48 quarter hours of~~  
1174 ~~graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester~~  
1175 ~~hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level course credits in~~

1176 ~~each of the following nine areas: dynamics of marriage and~~  
1177 ~~family systems; marriage therapy and counseling theory and~~  
1178 ~~techniques; family therapy and counseling theory and techniques;~~  
1179 ~~individual human development theories throughout the life cycle;~~  
1180 ~~personality theory or general counseling theory and techniques;~~  
1181 ~~psychopathology; human sexuality theory and counseling~~  
1182 ~~techniques; psychosocial theory; and substance abuse theory and~~  
1183 ~~counseling techniques. Courses in research, evaluation,~~  
1184 ~~appraisal, assessment, or testing theories and procedures;~~  
1185 ~~thesis or dissertation work; or practicums, internships, or~~  
1186 ~~fieldwork may not be applied toward this requirement.~~

1187 ~~b. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester~~  
1188 ~~hours or 4 quarter hours in legal, ethical, and professional~~  
1189 ~~standards issues in the practice of marriage and family therapy~~  
1190 ~~or a course determined by the board to be equivalent.~~

1191 ~~e. A minimum of one graduate-level course of 3 semester~~  
1192 ~~hours or 4 quarter hours in diagnosis, appraisal, assessment,~~  
1193 ~~and testing for individual or interpersonal disorder or~~  
1194 ~~dysfunction; and a minimum of one 3-semester-hour or 4-quarter-~~  
1195 ~~hour graduate-level course in behavioral research which focuses~~  
1196 ~~on the interpretation and application of research data as it~~  
1197 ~~applies to clinical practice. Credit for thesis or dissertation~~  
1198 ~~work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied~~  
1199 ~~toward this requirement.~~

1200 ~~d. A minimum of one supervised clinical practicum,~~



1201 ~~internship, or field experience in a marriage and family~~  
1202 ~~counseling setting, during which the student provided 180 direct~~  
1203 ~~client contact hours of marriage and family therapy services~~  
1204 ~~under the supervision of an individual who met the requirements~~  
1205 ~~for supervision under paragraph (c). This requirement may be met~~  
1206 ~~by a supervised practice experience which took place outside the~~  
1207 ~~academic arena, but which is certified as equivalent to a~~  
1208 ~~graduate-level practicum or internship program which required a~~  
1209 ~~minimum of 180 direct client contact hours of marriage and~~  
1210 ~~family therapy services currently offered within an academic~~  
1211 ~~program of a college or university accredited by an accrediting~~  
1212 ~~agency approved by the United States Department of Education, or~~  
1213 ~~an institution which is publicly recognized as a member in good~~  
1214 ~~standing with the Association of Universities and Colleges of~~  
1215 ~~Canada or a training institution accredited by the Commission on~~  
1216 ~~Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education~~  
1217 ~~recognized by the United States Department of Education.~~  
1218 ~~Certification shall be required from an official of such~~  
1219 ~~college, university, or training institution.~~

1220 ~~2. If the course title which appears on the applicant's~~  
1221 ~~transcript does not clearly identify the content of the~~  
1222 ~~coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide~~  
1223 ~~additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a~~  
1224 ~~syllabus or catalog description published for the course.~~  
1225

1226 The required master's degree must have been received in an  
 1227 institution of higher education which at the time the applicant  
 1228 graduated was: fully accredited by a regional accrediting body  
 1229 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
 1230 ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation;~~  
 1231 publicly recognized as a member in good standing with ~~the~~  
 1232 ~~Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada;~~ or an  
 1233 institution of higher education located outside the United  
 1234 States and Canada, which at the time the applicant was enrolled  
 1235 and at the time the applicant graduated maintained a standard of  
 1236 training substantially equivalent to the standards of training  
 1237 of those institutions in the United States which are accredited  
 1238 by a regional accrediting body recognized by the Council for  
 1239 Higher Education Accreditation ~~Commission on Recognition of~~  
 1240 ~~Postsecondary Accreditation~~. Such foreign education and training  
 1241 must have been received in an institution or program of higher  
 1242 education officially recognized by the government of the country  
 1243 in which it is located as an institution or program to train  
 1244 students to practice as professional marriage and family  
 1245 therapists or psychotherapists. The burden of establishing that  
 1246 the requirements of this provision have been met shall be upon  
 1247 the applicant, and the board shall require documentation, such  
 1248 as, but not limited to, an evaluation by a foreign equivalency  
 1249 determination service, as evidence that the applicant's graduate  
 1250 degree program and education were equivalent to an accredited

1251 program in this country. An applicant with a master's degree  
1252 from a program which did not emphasize marriage and family  
1253 therapy may complete the coursework requirement in a training  
1254 institution fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation  
1255 for Marriage and Family Therapy Education recognized by the  
1256 United States Department of Education.

1257 (c) Has had at least 2 years of clinical experience during  
1258 which 50 percent of the applicant's clients were receiving  
1259 marriage and family therapy services, which must be at the post-  
1260 master's level under the supervision of a licensed marriage and  
1261 family therapist with at least 5 years of experience, or the  
1262 equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the  
1263 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to  
1264 satisfy the clinical experience requirements must register  
1265 pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If a  
1266 graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in marriage  
1267 and family therapy or a closely related field that did not  
1268 include all the coursework required under paragraph (b) ~~sub-~~  
1269 ~~subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c.~~, credit for the post-master's level  
1270 clinical experience shall not commence until the applicant has  
1271 completed a minimum of 10 of the courses required under  
1272 paragraph (b) ~~sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-c.~~, as determined by the  
1273 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the  
1274 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage  
1275 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 ~~3~~

1276 | years of required experience, the applicant shall provide direct  
 1277 | individual, group, or family therapy and counseling, to include  
 1278 | the following categories of cases: unmarried dyads, married  
 1279 | couples, separating and divorcing couples, and family groups  
 1280 | including children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward  
 1281 | the clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
 1282 | professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
 1283 | provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1284 | (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination  
 1285 | designated ~~provided~~ by the board ~~department~~ for this purpose.

1286 | (e) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule  
 1287 | ~~of the board~~, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
 1288 | practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
 1289 | and mental health counseling.

1290 | (f) For the purposes of dual licensure, the department  
 1291 | shall license as a marriage and family therapist any person who  
 1292 | meets the requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure  
 1293 | shall not exceed those stated in this subsection.

1294 | (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of  
 1295 | documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 1296 | board rule, plus the actual per applicant cost ~~to the department~~  
 1297 | for purchase of the examination from the National Board for  
 1298 | Certified Counselors or its successor ~~Professional Examination~~  
 1299 | ~~Service for the National Academy of Certified Clinical Mental~~  
 1300 | ~~Health Counselors or a similar national organization, the~~

1301 department shall issue a license as a mental health counselor to  
1302 an applicant who the board certifies:

1303 (a) Has submitted an application and paid the appropriate  
1304 fee.

1305 (b)1. Has a minimum of an earned master's degree from a  
1306 mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for  
1307 the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs  
1308 that consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours  
1309 of clinical and didactic instruction, ~~including a course in~~  
1310 ~~human sexuality and a course in substance abuse~~. If the master's  
1311 degree is earned from a program related to the practice of  
1312 mental health counseling that is not accredited by the Council  
1313 for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational  
1314 Programs, then the coursework and practicum, internship, or  
1315 fieldwork must consist of at least 60 semester hours or 80  
1316 quarter hours and meet the following requirements:

1317 a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of  
1318 graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester  
1319 hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of  
1320 the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and  
1321 practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment  
1322 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and  
1323 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and  
1324 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social  
1325 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,

1326 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental  
1327 health counseling in community settings; and substance abuse.  
1328 Courses in research, thesis or dissertation work, practicums,  
1329 internships, or fieldwork may not be applied toward this  
1330 requirement.

1331 b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of  
1332 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,  
1333 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current  
1334 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American  
1335 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
1336 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the  
1337 common core curricular experience in legal, ethical, and  
1338 professional standards issues in the practice of mental health  
1339 counseling, which includes goals, objectives, and practices of  
1340 professional counseling organizations, codes of ethics, legal  
1341 considerations, standards of preparation, certifications and  
1342 licensing, and the role identity and professional obligations of  
1343 mental health counselors. Courses in research, thesis or  
1344 dissertation work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not  
1345 be applied toward this requirement.

1346 c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least  
1347 700 ~~1,000~~ hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical  
1348 practicum, internship, or field experience that includes at  
1349 least 280 hours of direct client services, as required in the  
1350 accrediting standards of the Council for Accreditation of

1351 Counseling and Related Educational Programs for mental health  
1352 counseling programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy  
1353 the post-master's clinical experience requirement.

1354 2. If the course title which appears on the applicant's  
1355 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
1356 coursework, the applicant shall be required to provide  
1357 additional documentation, including, but not limited to, a  
1358 syllabus or catalog description published for the course.

1359

1360 Education and training in mental health counseling must have  
1361 been received in an institution of higher education which at the  
1362 time the applicant graduated was: fully accredited by a regional  
1363 accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education  
1364 Accreditation or its successor ~~Commission on Recognition of~~  
1365 ~~Postsecondary Accreditation~~; publicly recognized as a member in  
1366 good standing with ~~the Association of Universities and Colleges~~  
1367 ~~of Canada~~; or an institution of higher education located outside  
1368 the United States and Canada, which at the time the applicant  
1369 was enrolled and at the time the applicant graduated maintained  
1370 a standard of training substantially equivalent to the standards  
1371 of training of those institutions in the United States which are  
1372 accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the  
1373 Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor  
1374 ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation~~. Such  
1375 foreign education and training must have been received in an

1376 institution or program of higher education officially recognized  
1377 by the government of the country in which it is located as an  
1378 institution or program to train students to practice as mental  
1379 health counselors. The burden of establishing that the  
1380 requirements of this provision have been met shall be upon the  
1381 applicant, and the board shall require documentation, such as,  
1382 but not limited to, an evaluation by a foreign equivalency  
1383 determination service, as evidence that the applicant's graduate  
1384 degree program and education were equivalent to an accredited  
1385 program in this country. Beginning July 1, 2026, an applicant  
1386 must have a master's degree in a program that is accredited by  
1387 the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related  
1388 Educational Programs which consists of at least 60 semester  
1389 hours or 80 quarter hours to apply for licensure under this  
1390 paragraph.

1391 (c) Has had at least 2 years of clinical experience in  
1392 mental health counseling, which must be at the post-master's  
1393 level under the supervision of a licensed mental health  
1394 counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as  
1395 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice  
1396 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must  
1397 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If  
1398 a graduate has a master's degree with a major related to the  
1399 practice of mental health counseling that did not include all  
1400 the coursework required under sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-b.,



1401 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience shall not  
 1402 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of seven of  
 1403 the courses required under sub-subparagraphs (b)1.a.-b., as  
 1404 determined by the board, one of which must be a course in  
 1405 psychopathology or abnormal psychology. A doctoral internship  
 1406 may be applied toward the clinical experience requirement. A  
 1407 licensed mental health professional must be on the premises when  
 1408 clinical services are provided by a registered intern in a  
 1409 private practice setting.

1410 (d) Has passed a theory and practice examination  
 1411 designated ~~provided~~ by the board ~~department~~ for this purpose.

1412 (e) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule  
 1413 ~~of the board~~, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the  
 1414 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,  
 1415 and mental health counseling.

1416 Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 491.0057, Florida  
 1417 Statutes, is amended to read:

1418 491.0057 Dual licensure as a marriage and family  
 1419 therapist.—The department shall license as a marriage and family  
 1420 therapist any person who demonstrates to the board that he or  
 1421 she:

1422 (3) Has passed the examination designated ~~provided~~ by the  
 1423 board ~~department~~ for marriage and family therapy.

1424 Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 1425 491.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1426           491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—  
 1427           (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to  
 1428 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon  
 1429 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,  
 1430 demonstrates to the board that he or she:  
 1431           (b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has  
 1432 actively practiced the profession for which licensure is applied  
 1433 in another state for 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding  
 1434 licensure.  
 1435           ~~2. Meets the education requirements of this chapter for~~  
 1436 ~~the profession for which licensure is applied.~~  
 1437           2.3. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing  
 1438 examination in another state or has passed the licensure  
 1439 examination in this state in the profession for which the  
 1440 applicant seeks licensure.  
 1441           ~~3.4.~~ Holds a license in good standing, is not under  
 1442 investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of  
 1443 this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act  
 1444 that would constitute a violation of this chapter. ~~The fees paid~~  
 1445 ~~by any applicant for certification as a master social worker~~  
 1446 ~~under this section are nonrefundable.~~  
 1447           Section 14. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 491.007,  
 1448 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
 1449           491.007 Renewal of license, registration, or certificate.—  
 1450           (2) Each applicant for renewal shall present satisfactory

1451 evidence that, in the period since the license or certificate  
 1452 was issued, the applicant has completed continuing education  
 1453 requirements set by rule of the board or department. Not more  
 1454 than 25 classroom hours of continuing education per year shall  
 1455 be required. ~~A certified master social worker is exempt from the~~  
 1456 ~~continuing education requirements for the first renewal of the~~  
 1457 ~~certificate.~~

1458 ~~(3) The board or department shall prescribe by rule a~~  
 1459 ~~method for the biennial renewal of an intern registration at a~~  
 1460 ~~fee set by rule, not to exceed \$100.~~

1461 Section 15. Subsection (2) of section 491.009, Florida  
 1462 Statutes, is amended to read:

1463 491.009 Discipline.—

1464 (2) ~~The department, or, in the case of psychologists, the~~  
 1465 ~~board,~~ may enter an order denying licensure or imposing any of  
 1466 the penalties in s. 456.072(2) against any applicant for  
 1467 licensure or licensee who is found guilty of violating any  
 1468 provision of subsection (1) of this section or who is found  
 1469 guilty of violating any provision of s. 456.072(1).

1470 Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
 1471 491.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1472 491.012 Violations; penalty; injunction.—

1473 (1) It is unlawful and a violation of this chapter for any  
 1474 person to:

1475 (a) Use the following titles or any combination thereof,

1476 unless she or he holds a valid, active license as a clinical  
 1477 social worker issued pursuant to this chapter:

- 1478 1. "Licensed clinical social worker."
- 1479 2. "Clinical social worker."
- 1480 3. "Licensed social worker."
- 1481 4. "Psychiatric social worker."
- 1482 5. "Psychosocial worker."
- 1483 6. "Certified master social worker."

1484 Section 17. Section 491.0145, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 1485 to read:

1486 491.0145 Certified master social worker.—

1487 (1) The department shall license ~~may certify~~ an applicant  
 1488 for a designation as a certified master social worker who, upon  
 1489 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,  
 1490 demonstrates to the board that he or she has met the following  
 1491 conditions:

1492 (a)-(1) The applicant has submitted ~~completes~~ an  
 1493 application and has paid ~~to be provided by the department and~~  
 1494 ~~pays~~ a nonrefundable fee not to exceed \$250 to be established by  
 1495 rule of the board ~~department~~. ~~The completed application must be~~  
 1496 ~~received by the department at least 60 days before the date of~~  
 1497 ~~the examination in order for the applicant to qualify to take~~  
 1498 ~~the scheduled exam.~~

1499 (b)-(2) The applicant submits proof satisfactory to the  
 1500 board ~~department~~ that the applicant has received a doctoral

1501 degree in social work, or a master's degree in social work with  
1502 a major emphasis or specialty in ~~clinical practice or~~  
1503 ~~administration, including, but not limited to, agency~~  
1504 administration and supervision, program planning and evaluation,  
1505 staff development, research, community organization, community  
1506 services, social planning, and human service advocacy. Doctoral  
1507 degrees must have been received from a graduate school of social  
1508 work which at the time the applicant was enrolled and graduated  
1509 was accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the United  
1510 States Department of Education. Master's degrees must have been  
1511 received from a graduate school of social work which at the time  
1512 the applicant was enrolled and graduated was accredited by the  
1513 Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of  
1514 Schools for ~~of~~ Social Work Education or by one that meets  
1515 comparable standards.

1516 (c) ~~(3)~~ The applicant has had at least 2 ~~3~~ years'  
1517 experience, as defined by rule of the board, including, but not  
1518 limited to, ~~clinical services or~~ administrative activities as  
1519 described in paragraph (b) ~~defined in subsection (2)~~, 2 years of  
1520 which must be at the post-master's level under the supervision  
1521 of a person who meets the education and experience requirements  
1522 for certification as a certified master social worker, as  
1523 defined by rule of the board, or licensure as a clinical social  
1524 worker under this chapter. A doctoral internship may be applied  
1525 toward the supervision requirement.

1526        (d)~~(4)~~ Any person who holds a master's degree in social  
 1527 work from institutions outside the United States may apply to  
 1528 the board ~~department~~ for certification if the academic training  
 1529 in social work has been evaluated as equivalent to a degree from  
 1530 a school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Any  
 1531 such person shall submit a copy of the academic training from  
 1532 the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on  
 1533 Social Work Education.

1534        (e)~~(5)~~ The applicant has passed an examination required by  
 1535 the board ~~department~~ for this purpose. ~~The nonrefundable fee for~~  
 1536 ~~such examination may not exceed \$250 as set by department rule.~~

1537        (2)~~(6)~~ Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to  
 1538 authorize a certified master social worker to provide clinical  
 1539 social work services.

1540        (3) The board may adopt rules to implement this section.

1541        Section 18. Section 491.0149, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 1542 to read:

1543        491.0149 Display of license; use of professional title on  
 1544 promotional materials.—

1545        (1) (a) A person licensed under this chapter as a clinical  
 1546 social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health  
 1547 counselor, or certified as a master social worker shall  
 1548 conspicuously display the valid license issued by the department  
 1549 or a true copy thereof at each location at which the licensee  
 1550 practices his or her profession.

1551 (b)1. A licensed clinical social worker shall include the  
1552 words "licensed clinical social worker" or the letters "LCSW" on  
1553 all promotional materials, including cards, brochures,  
1554 stationery, advertisements, social media, and signs, naming the  
1555 licensee.

1556 2. A licensed marriage and family therapist shall include  
1557 the words "licensed marriage and family therapist" or the  
1558 letters "LMFT" on all promotional materials, including cards,  
1559 brochures, stationery, advertisements, social media, and signs,  
1560 naming the licensee.

1561 3. A licensed mental health counselor shall include the  
1562 words "licensed mental health counselor" or the letters "LMHC"  
1563 on all promotional materials, including cards, brochures,  
1564 stationery, advertisements, social media, and signs, naming the  
1565 licensee.

1566 (c) A generalist social worker shall include the words  
1567 "certified master social worker" or the letters "CMSW" on all  
1568 promotional materials, including cards, brochures, stationery,  
1569 advertisements, social media, and signs, naming the licensee.

1570 (2)(a) A person registered under this chapter as a  
1571 clinical social worker intern, marriage and family therapist  
1572 intern, or mental health counselor intern shall conspicuously  
1573 display the valid registration issued by the department or a  
1574 true copy thereof at each location at which the registered  
1575 intern is completing the experience requirements.

1576 (b) A registered clinical social worker intern shall  
1577 include the words "registered clinical social worker intern," a  
1578 registered marriage and family therapist intern shall include  
1579 the words "registered marriage and family therapist intern," and  
1580 a registered mental health counselor intern shall include the  
1581 words "registered mental health counselor intern" on all  
1582 promotional materials, including cards, brochures, stationery,  
1583 advertisements, social media, and signs, naming the registered  
1584 intern.

1585 (3) (a) A person provisionally licensed under this chapter  
1586 as a provisional clinical social worker licensee, provisional  
1587 marriage and family therapist licensee, or provisional mental  
1588 health counselor licensee shall conspicuously display the valid  
1589 provisional license issued by the department or a true copy  
1590 thereof at each location at which the provisional licensee is  
1591 providing services.

1592 (b) A provisional clinical social worker licensee shall  
1593 include the words "provisional clinical social worker licensee,"  
1594 a provisional marriage and family therapist licensee shall  
1595 include the words "provisional marriage and family therapist  
1596 licensee," and a provisional mental health counselor licensee  
1597 shall include the words "provisional mental health counselor  
1598 licensee" on all promotional materials, including cards,  
1599 brochures, stationery, advertisements, social media, and signs,  
1600 naming the provisional licensee.



1601           Section 19. Section 491.015, Florida Statutes, is  
 1602 repealed.

1603           Section 20. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (10) of  
 1604 section 768.28, Florida Statutes, to read:

1605           768.28 Waiver of sovereign immunity in tort actions;  
 1606 recovery limits; limitation on attorney fees; statute of  
 1607 limitations; exclusions; indemnification; risk management  
 1608 programs.—

1609           (10)

1610           (h) For the purposes of this section, the representative  
 1611 appointed from the Board of Medicine and the representative  
 1612 appointed from the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, when serving  
 1613 as commissioners of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact  
 1614 Commission pursuant to s. 456.4501, and any administrator,  
 1615 officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the  
 1616 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission, when acting  
 1617 within the scope of their employment, duties, or  
 1618 responsibilities in this state, are considered agents of the  
 1619 state. The commission shall pay any claims or judgments pursuant  
 1620 to this section and may maintain insurance coverage to pay any  
 1621 such claims or judgments.

1622           Section 21. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
 1623 414.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1624           414.065 Noncompliance with work requirements.—

1625           (4) EXCEPTIONS TO NONCOMPLIANCE PENALTIES.—Unless

1626 otherwise provided, the situations listed in this subsection  
1627 shall constitute exceptions to the penalties for noncompliance  
1628 with participation requirements, except that these situations do  
1629 not constitute exceptions to the applicable time limit for  
1630 receipt of temporary cash assistance:

1631 (c) Noncompliance related to treatment or remediation of  
1632 past effects of domestic violence.—An individual who is  
1633 determined to be unable to comply with the work requirements  
1634 under this section due to mental or physical impairment related  
1635 to past incidents of domestic violence may be exempt from work  
1636 requirements, except that such individual shall comply with a  
1637 plan that specifies alternative requirements that prepare the  
1638 individual for self-sufficiency while providing for the safety  
1639 of the individual and the individual's dependents. A participant  
1640 who is determined to be out of compliance with the alternative  
1641 requirement plan shall be subject to the penalties under  
1642 subsection (1). The plan must include counseling or a course of  
1643 treatment necessary for the individual to resume participation.  
1644 The need for treatment and the expected duration of such  
1645 treatment must be verified by a physician licensed under chapter  
1646 458 or chapter 459; a psychologist licensed under s. 490.005(1),  
1647 s. 490.006, or the provision identified as s. 490.013(2) in s.  
1648 1, chapter 81-235, Laws of Florida; a therapist as defined in s.  
1649 491.003(3) or (7) ~~s. 491.003(2) or (6)~~; or a treatment  
1650 professional who is registered under s. 39.905(1)(g), is

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1651 authorized to maintain confidentiality under s. 90.5036(1)(d),  
1652 and has a minimum of 2 years' ~~years~~ experience at a certified  
1653 domestic violence center. An exception granted under this  
1654 paragraph does not automatically constitute an exception from  
1655 the time limitations on benefits specified under s. 414.105.  
1656 Section 22. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.