

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to podiatric medicine; amending ss.  
3 458.347 and 459.022, F.S.; authorizing a supervising  
4 physician to authorize a licensed physician assistant  
5 to perform services under the direction of a licensed  
6 podiatric physician under certain circumstances;  
7 specifying that the supervising physician is liable  
8 for the performance and the acts and omissions of such  
9 physician assistant; amending s. 458.3485, F.S.;  
10 defining the term "physician" to include podiatric  
11 physicians; amending s. 461.007, F.S.; authorizing the  
12 Board of Podiatric Medicine to require a specified  
13 number of continuing education hours related to the  
14 safe and effective prescribing of controlled  
15 substances; creating s. 461.0145, F.S.; authorizing a  
16 licensed physician assistant to perform services under  
17 the direction of a licensed podiatric physician under  
18 certain circumstances; creating s. 461.0155, F.S.;  
19 providing for governance of podiatric physicians who  
20 are supervising medical assistants; amending s.  
21 624.27, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
22 "health care provider" to include podiatric  
23 physicians; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (4) of section 458.347, Florida Statutes, to read:

458.347 Physician assistants.—

(4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—

(i) A supervising physician may authorize a licensed physician assistant to perform services under the direction of a podiatric physician licensed under chapter 461 who is a partner, shareholder, or employee of the same group practice, as defined in s. 456.053(3), as the supervising physician and the physician assistant. The supervising physician is liable for the performance and the acts and omissions of such physician assistant.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 458.3485, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

458.3485 Medical assistant.—

(1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section: ~~7~~

(a) "Medical assistant" means a professional multiskilled person dedicated to assisting in all aspects of medical practice under the direct supervision and responsibility of a physician. This practitioner assists with patient care management, executes administrative and clinical procedures, and often performs managerial and supervisory functions. Competence in the field also requires that a medical assistant adhere to ethical and legal standards of professional practice, recognize and respond

51 to emergencies, and demonstrate professional characteristics.

52 (b) "Physician" means a person who is licensed as a  
53 physician under this chapter or as a podiatric physician under  
54 chapter 461.

55 Section 3. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (4) of  
56 section 459.022, Florida Statutes, to read:

57 459.022 Physician assistants.—

58 (4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—

59 (h) A supervising physician may authorize a licensed  
60 physician assistant to perform services under the direction of a  
61 podiatric physician licensed under chapter 461 who is a partner,  
62 shareholder, or employee of the same group practice, as defined  
63 in s. 456.053(3), as the supervising physician and the physician  
64 assistant. The supervising physician is liable for the  
65 performance and the acts and omissions of such physician  
66 assistant.

67 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 461.007, Florida  
68 Statutes, is amended to read:

69 461.007 Renewal of license.—

70 (3) The board may by rule prescribe continuing education,  
71 not to exceed 40 hours biennially, as a condition for renewal of  
72 a license, with a minimum of 2 hours of continuing education  
73 related to the safe and effective prescribing of controlled  
74 substances. The criteria for such programs or courses shall be  
75 approved by the board.

76 Section 5. Section 461.0145, Florida Statutes, is created  
77 to read:

78 461.0145 Physician assistants.—A licensed physician  
79 assistant may perform services under the direction of a licensed  
80 podiatric physician in accordance with ss. 458.347(4) and  
81 459.022(4).

82 Section 6. Section 461.0155, Florida Statutes, is created  
83 to read:

84 461.0155 Medical assistants.—A podiatric physician who is  
85 supervising a medical assistant shall be governed by s.  
86 458.3485.

87 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
88 624.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

89 624.27 Direct health care agreements; exemption from  
90 code.—

91 (1) As used in this section, the term:

92 (b) "Health care provider" means a health care provider  
93 licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter  
94 461, chapter 464, or chapter 466, or a health care group  
95 practice, who provides health care services to patients.

96 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.