

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to physician assistant licensure;
 3 amending ss. 458.347 and 459.022 F.S.; revising
 4 requirements for an applicant for licensure as a
 5 physician assistant; providing an effective date.

6
 7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
 10 458.347, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 458.347 Physician assistants.—

12 (6) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.—

13 (a) Any person desiring to be licensed as a physician
 14 assistant must apply to the department. The department shall
 15 issue a license to any person certified by the council as having
 16 met all of the following requirements:

17 1. Is at least 18 years of age.

18 2. Has completed ~~graduated from~~ an approved program.

19 a. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ after
 20 December 31, 2020, has received a master's degree ~~in accordance~~
 21 ~~with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the~~
 22 ~~Physician Assistant or, before 2001, its equivalent or~~
 23 ~~predecessor organization.~~

24 ~~b. For an applicant who graduated on or before December~~
 25 ~~31, 2020, has received a bachelor's or master's degree from an~~

26 ~~approved program.~~

27 ~~e. For an applicant who graduated before July 1, 1994, has~~
28 ~~graduated from an approved program of instruction in primary~~
29 ~~health care or surgery.~~

30 ~~d. For an applicant who graduated before July 1, 1983, has~~
31 ~~received a certification as a physician assistant from the~~
32 ~~boards.~~

33 b.e. The board may also grant a license to an applicant
34 who does not meet the educational requirement specified in this
35 subparagraph but who has passed the Physician Assistant National
36 Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission
37 on Certification of Physician Assistants ~~before 1986.~~

38 3. Has obtained a passing score as established by the
39 National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or
40 its equivalent or successor organization and has been nationally
41 certified. If an applicant does not hold a current certificate
42 issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician
43 Assistants or its equivalent or successor organization and has
44 not actively practiced as a physician assistant within the
45 immediately preceding 4 years, the applicant must retake and
46 successfully complete the entry-level examination of the
47 National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or
48 its equivalent or successor organization to be eligible for
49 licensure.

50 4. Has completed the application form and remitted an

51 application fee not to exceed \$300 as set by the boards. An
 52 application for licensure as a physician assistant must include:

- 53 a. A diploma from an approved program.
- 54 b. Acknowledgment of any prior felony convictions.
- 55 c. Acknowledgment of any previous revocation or denial of
 56 licensure or certification in any state.

57 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
 58 459.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

59 459.022 Physician assistants.—

60 (6) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.—

61 (a) Any person desiring to be licensed as a physician
 62 assistant must apply to the department. The department shall
 63 issue a license to any person certified by the council as having
 64 met all of the following requirements:

- 65 1. Is at least 18 years of age.
- 66 2. Has matriculated ~~graduated~~ from an approved program.

67 a. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ after
 68 December 31, 2020, has received a master's degree ~~in accordance~~
 69 ~~with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the~~
 70 ~~Physician Assistant or, before 2001, its equivalent or~~
 71 ~~predecessor organization.~~

72 b. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ on or
 73 before December 31, 2020, has received a bachelor's or master's
 74 degree from an approved program.

75 c. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ before July

76 | 1, 1994, has graduated from an approved program of instruction
 77 | in primary health care or surgery.

78 | d. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ before July
 79 | 1, 1983, has received a certification as a physician assistant
 80 | from the boards.

81 | e. The board may also grant a license to an applicant who
 82 | does not meet the educational requirement specified in this
 83 | subparagraph but who has passed the Physician Assistant National
 84 | Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission
 85 | on Certification of Physician Assistants ~~before 1986~~.

86 | 3. Has obtained a passing score as established by the
 87 | National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or
 88 | its equivalent or successor organization and has been nationally
 89 | certified. If an applicant does not hold a current certificate
 90 | issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician
 91 | Assistants or its equivalent or successor organization and has
 92 | not actively practiced as a physician assistant within the
 93 | immediately preceding 4 years, the applicant must retake and
 94 | successfully complete the entry-level examination of the
 95 | National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or
 96 | its equivalent or successor organization to be eligible for
 97 | licensure.

98 | 4. Has completed the application form and remitted an
 99 | application fee not to exceed \$300 as set by the boards. An
 100 | application for licensure as a physician assistant must include:

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- 101 a. A diploma from an approved program.
- 102 b. Acknowledgment of any prior felony convictions.
- 103 c. Acknowledgment of any previous revocation or denial of
- 104 licensure or certification in any state.
- 105 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.