

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 matriculated ~~graduated~~ on or  
 25 before December 31, 2020, has received a bachelor's or master's

26 | degree from an approved program.

27 |       c. 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 |       e. The board may also grant a license to an applicant who  
34 | 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 completed ~~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 graduated before July 1, 1994, has  
76 graduated from an approved program of instruction in primary  
77 health care or surgery.

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

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100 application for licensure as a physician assistant must include:  
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.