1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to physician assistants' prescriptive 3 authority; amending ss. 458.347 and 459.022, F.S.; 4 deleting requirements that a physician assistant may 5 only prescribe or dispense drugs under a physician's 6 supervision; amending ss. 458.3475, 458.348, 459.023, 459.025, 744.3675, and 893.05, F.S.; conforming cross-7 8 references and provisions to changes made by the act;

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

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Section 1. Paragraphs (h) through (k) of subsection (4) of section 458.347, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (f) through (i), respectively, and paragraph (e) and present paragraphs (f) and (g) of that subsection and paragraph (c) of subsection (8) of that section are amended to read:

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458.347 Physician assistants.—

(4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.-

providing an effective date.

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(e) A supervising physician may delegate to a fully licensed physician assistant may procure medical devices and drugs and the authority to prescribe or dispense any medication used in the supervising physician's practice unless such medication is listed on the formulary created pursuant to paragraph (f). A fully licensed physician assistant may only

Page 1 of 15

prescribe or dispense such medication under the following circumstances:

- 1. A physician assistant must clearly identify to the patient that he or she is a physician assistant.
- 2. The supervising physician must notify the department of his or her intent to delegate, on a department-approved form, before delegating such authority and of any change in prescriptive privileges of the physician assistant. Authority to dispense may be delegated only by a supervising physician who is registered as a dispensing practitioner in compliance with s. 465.0276.
- 3. A fully licensed physician assistant may procure medical devices and drugs unless the medication is listed on the formulary created pursuant to paragraph (f).
- 1.4. The physician assistant must complete a minimum of 10 continuing medical education hours in the specialty practice in which the physician assistant has prescriptive privileges with each licensure renewal. Three of the 10 hours must consist of a continuing education course on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substance medications which is offered by a statewide professional association of physicians in this state accredited to provide educational activities designated for the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 credit, designated by the American Academy of Physician Assistants as a Category 1 credit, or designated by

Page 2 of 15

the American Osteopathic Association as a Category 1-A credit.

2.5. The prescription may be in paper or electronic form but must comply with ss. 456.0392(1) and 456.42(1) and chapter 499 and must contain the physician assistant's name, address, and telephone number and the name of each of his or her supervising physicians. Unless it is a drug or drug sample dispensed by the physician assistant, the prescription must be filled in a pharmacy permitted under chapter 465 and must be dispensed in that pharmacy by a pharmacist licensed under chapter 465.

3.6. The physician assistant must note the prescription or dispensing of medication in the appropriate medical record.

drugs that a fully licensed physician assistant having prescribing authority under this section or s. 459.022 may not prescribe. The formulary must include general anesthetics and radiographic contrast materials and must limit the prescription of Schedule II controlled substances as listed in s. 893.03 to a 7-day supply. The formulary must also restrict the prescribing of Schedule II psychiatric mental health controlled substances for children younger than 18 years of age to a 14-day supply, provided the physician assistant is under the supervision of a pediatrician, a family practice physician, an internal medicine physician, or a psychiatrist.

2. In establishing the formulary, the council shall

Page 3 of 15

consult with a pharmacist licensed under chapter 465, but not licensed under this chapter or chapter 459, who shall be selected by the State Surgeon General.

3. Only the council shall add to, delete from, or modify the formulary. Any person who requests an addition, a deletion, or a modification of a medicinal drug listed on such formulary has the burden of proof to show cause why such addition, deletion, or modification should be made.

4. The boards shall adopt the formulary required by this paragraph, and each addition, deletion, or modification to the formulary, by rule. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120 to the contrary, the formulary rule shall be effective 60 days after the date it is filed with the Secretary of State. Upon adoption of the formulary, the department shall mail a copy of such formulary to each fully licensed physician assistant having prescribing authority under this section or s. 459.022, and to each pharmacy licensed by the state. The boards shall establish, by rule, a fee not to exceed \$200 to fund the provisions of paragraph (e) and this paragraph.

(g) A supervisory physician may delegate to a licensed physician assistant the authority to, and the licensed physician assistant acting under the direction of the supervisory physician may, order any medication for administration to the supervisory physician's patient in a facility licensed under chapter 395 or part II of chapter 400, notwithstanding any

Page 4 of 15

provisions in chapter 465 or chapter 893 which may prohibit this delegation.

- (8) COUNCIL ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—The Council on Physician Assistants is created within the department.
  - (c) The council shall:

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- 1. Recommend to the department the licensure of physician assistants.
- Develop all rules regulating the use of physician 2. assistants by physicians under this chapter and chapter  $459_{\tau}$ except for rules relating to the formulary developed under paragraph (4)(f). The council shall also develop rules to ensure that the continuity of supervision is maintained in each practice setting. The boards shall consider adopting a proposed rule developed by the council at the regularly scheduled meeting immediately following the submission of the proposed rule by the council. A proposed rule submitted by the council may not be adopted by either board unless both boards have accepted and approved the identical language contained in the proposed rule. The language of all proposed rules submitted by the council must be approved by both boards pursuant to each respective board's guidelines and standards regarding the adoption of proposed rules. If either board rejects the council's proposed rule, that board must specify its objection to the council with particularity and include any recommendations it may have for the modification of the proposed rule.

Page 5 of 15

3. Make recommendations to the boards regarding all matters relating to physician assistants.

- 4. Address concerns and problems of practicing physician assistants in order to improve safety in the clinical practices of licensed physician assistants.
- Section 2. Paragraphs (g) through (j) of subsection (4) of section 459.022, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (f) through (i), respectively, and paragraph (e) and present paragraph (f) of that subsection are amended to read:

459.022 Physician assistants.-

- (4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.-
- (e) A supervising physician may delegate to a fully licensed physician assistant may procure medical devices and drugs and the authority to prescribe or dispense any medication used in the supervising physician's practice unless such medication is listed on the formulary created pursuant to s. 458.347. A fully licensed physician assistant may only prescribe or dispense such medication under the following circumstances:
- 1. A physician assistant must clearly identify to the patient that she or he is a physician assistant.
- 2. The supervising physician must notify the department of her or his intent to delegate, on a department-approved form, before delegating such authority and of any change in prescriptive privileges of the physician assistant. Authority to dispense may be delegated only by a supervising physician who is

Page 6 of 15

registered as a dispensing practitioner in compliance with s. 465.0276.

- 3. A fully licensed physician assistant may procure medical devices and drugs unless the medication is listed on the formulary created pursuant to s. 458.347(4)(f).
- 1.4. The physician assistant must complete a minimum of 10 continuing medical education hours in the specialty practice in which the physician assistant has prescriptive privileges with each licensure renewal. Three of the 10 hours must consist of a continuing education course on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substance medications which is offered by a provider that has been approved by the American Academy of Physician Assistants and which is designated for the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 credit, designated by the American Academy of Physician Assistants as a Category 1 credit, or designated by the American Osteopathic Association as a Category 1-A credit.
- 2.5. The prescription may be in paper or electronic form but must comply with ss. 456.0392(1) and 456.42(1) and chapter 499 and must contain the physician assistant's name, address, and telephone number and the name of each of his or her supervising physicians. Unless it is a drug or drug sample dispensed by the physician assistant, the prescription must be filled in a pharmacy permitted under chapter 465, and must be dispensed in that pharmacy by a pharmacist licensed under

Page 7 of 15

176 chapter 465.

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- 3.6. The physician assistant must note the prescription or dispensing of medication in the appropriate medical record.
- (f) A supervisory physician may delegate to a licensed physician assistant the authority to, and the licensed physician assistant acting under the direction of the supervisory physician may, order any medication for administration to the supervisory physician's patient in a facility licensed under chapter 395 or part II of chapter 400, notwithstanding any provisions in chapter 465 or chapter 893 which may prohibit this delegation.
- Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 458.3475, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 458.3475 Anesthesiologist assistants.-
- (7) ANESTHESIOLOGIST AND ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT TO ADVISE THE BOARD.—
  - (b) In addition to its other duties and responsibilities as prescribed by law, the board shall:
  - 1. Recommend to the department the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants.
  - 2. Develop all rules regulating the use of anesthesiologist assistants by qualified anesthesiologists under this chapter and chapter  $459_{\tau}$  except for rules relating to the formulary developed under s. 458.347(4)(f). The board shall also develop rules to ensure that the continuity of supervision is

Page 8 of 15

maintained in each practice setting. The boards shall consider adopting a proposed rule at the regularly scheduled meeting immediately following the submission of the proposed rule. A proposed rule may not be adopted by either board unless both boards have accepted and approved the identical language contained in the proposed rule. The language of all proposed rules must be approved by both boards pursuant to each respective board's guidelines and standards regarding the adoption of proposed rules.

- 3. Address concerns and problems of practicing anesthesiologist assistants to improve safety in the clinical practices of licensed anesthesiologist assistants.
- Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 458.348, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 458.348 Formal supervisory relationships, standing orders, and established protocols; notice; standards.—
- A physician who supervises an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant at a medical office other than the physician's primary practice location, where the advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant is not under the onsite supervision of a supervising physician, must comply with the standards set forth in this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection, a physician's "primary practice location" means the address reflected on the physician's profile published

226 pursuant to s. 456.041.

- (c) A physician who supervises an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant at a medical office other than the physician's primary practice location, where the advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant is not under the onsite supervision of a supervising physician and the services offered at the office are primarily dermatologic or skin care services, which include aesthetic skin care services other than plastic surgery, must comply with the standards listed in subparagraphs 1.-4. Notwithstanding <a href="mailto:s.458.347(4)(e)6.">s.458.347(4)(e)6.</a>, a physician supervising a physician assistant pursuant to this paragraph may not be required to review and cosign charts or medical records prepared by such physician assistant.
- 1. The physician shall submit to the board the addresses of all offices where he or she is supervising an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant which are not the physician's primary practice location.
- 2. The physician must be board certified or board eligible in dermatology or plastic surgery as recognized by the board pursuant to s. 458.3312.
- 3. All such offices that are not the physician's primary place of practice must be within 25 miles of the physician's primary place of practice or in a county that is contiguous to the county of the physician's primary place of practice.

Page 10 of 15

However, the distance between any of the offices may not exceed 75 miles.

- 4. The physician may supervise only one office other than the physician's primary place of practice.
- Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section 459.023, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 459.023 Anesthesiologist assistants.-

- (7) ANESTHESIOLOGIST AND ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT TO ADVISE THE BOARD.—
- (b) In addition to its other duties and responsibilities as prescribed by law, the board shall:
- 1. Recommend to the department the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants.
- 2. Develop all rules regulating the use of anesthesiologist assistants by qualified anesthesiologists under this chapter and chapter 458, except for rules relating to the formulary developed under s. 458.347(4)(f). The board shall also develop rules to ensure that the continuity of supervision is maintained in each practice setting. The boards shall consider adopting a proposed rule at the regularly scheduled meeting immediately following the submission of the proposed rule. A proposed rule may not be adopted by either board unless both boards have accepted and approved the identical language contained in the proposed rule. The language of all proposed rules must be approved by both boards pursuant to each

Page 11 of 15

respective board's guidelines and standards regarding the adoption of proposed rules.

- 3. Address concerns and problems of practicing anesthesiologist assistants to improve safety in the clinical practices of licensed anesthesiologist assistants.
- Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 459.025, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 459.025 Formal supervisory relationships, standing orders, and established protocols; notice; standards.—
- An osteopathic physician who supervises an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant at a medical office other than the osteopathic physician's primary practice location, where the advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant is not under the onsite supervision of a supervising osteopathic physician, must comply with the standards set forth in this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection, an osteopathic physician's "primary practice location" means the address reflected on the physician's profile published pursuant to s. 456.041.
- (c) An osteopathic physician who supervises an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant at a medical office other than the osteopathic physician's primary practice location, where the advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant is not under the onsite supervision of a

Page 12 of 15

supervising osteopathic physician and the services offered at the office are primarily dermatologic or skin care services, which include aesthetic skin care services other than plastic surgery, must comply with the standards listed in subparagraphs 1.-4. Notwithstanding  $\underline{s.}$  459.022(4)(e)3.  $\underline{s.}$  459.022(4)(e)6., an osteopathic physician supervising a physician assistant pursuant to this paragraph may not be required to review and cosign charts or medical records prepared by such physician assistant.

- 1. The osteopathic physician shall submit to the Board of Osteopathic Medicine the addresses of all offices where he or she is supervising or has a protocol with an advanced practice registered nurse or a physician assistant which are not the osteopathic physician's primary practice location.
- 2. The osteopathic physician must be board certified or board eligible in dermatology or plastic surgery as recognized by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine pursuant to s. 459.0152.
- 3. All such offices that are not the osteopathic physician's primary place of practice must be within 25 miles of the osteopathic physician's primary place of practice or in a county that is contiguous to the county of the osteopathic physician's primary place of practice. However, the distance between any of the offices may not exceed 75 miles.
- 4. The osteopathic physician may supervise only one office other than the osteopathic physician's primary place of practice.

Page 13 of 15

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 744.3675, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

744.3675 Annual guardianship plan.—Each guardian of the person must file with the court an annual guardianship plan which updates information about the condition of the ward. The annual plan must specify the current needs of the ward and how those needs are proposed to be met in the coming year.

- (1) Each plan for an adult ward must, if applicable, include:
- (b) Information concerning the medical and mental health conditions and treatment and rehabilitation needs of the ward, including:
- 1. A resume of any professional medical treatment given to the ward during the preceding year.
- 2. The report of a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123 who examined the ward no more than 90 days before the beginning of the applicable reporting period. If the guardian has requested a physician to complete the examination and prepare the report and the physician has delegated that responsibility, the examination may be performed and the report may be prepared and signed by a physician assistant acting pursuant to  $\underline{s.458.347(4)(f)}$   $\underline{s.459.022(4)(f)}$  s.  $\underline{459.022(4)(g)}$ , or by an advanced practice registered nurse acting pursuant to s.  $\underline{464.012(3)}$ . The report must contain an evaluation of the ward's

Page 14 of 15

351 condition and a statement of the current level of capacity of the ward.

- 3. The plan for providing medical, mental health, and rehabilitative services in the coming year.
- Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 893.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 893.05 Practitioners and persons administering controlled substances in their absence.—

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- (b) Pursuant to s. 458.347(4)(g), s. 459.022(4)(f), or s. 464.012(3), as applicable, a practitioner who supervises an a licensed physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse may authorize the licensed physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse to order controlled substances for administration to a patient in a facility licensed under chapter 395 or part II of chapter 400.
- 367 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Page 15 of 15