

By Senator Grall

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to background screening requirements  
3       for health care practitioners; amending s. 456.0135,  
4       F.S.; expanding certain background screening  
5       requirements to apply to all health care  
6       practitioners, rather than specified practitioners;  
7       requiring health care practitioners licensed before a  
8       specified date to comply with the background screening  
9       requirements by a specified date; amending ss.  
10      457.105, 463.006, 465.007, 465.0075, 465.013, 465.014,  
11      466.006, 466.0067, 466.007, 467.011, 468.1185,  
12      468.1215, 468.1695, 468.209, 468.213, 468.355,  
13      468.358, 468.509, 468.513, 468.803, 478.45, 483.815,  
14      483.901, 483.914, 484.007, 484.045, 486.031, 486.102,  
15      490.005, 490.0051, 490.006, 491.0045, 491.0046,  
16      491.005, and 491.006, F.S.; revising licensure,  
17      registration, or certification requirements, as  
18      applicable, for acupuncturists; optometrists;  
19      pharmacists; pharmacist licenses by endorsement;  
20      registered pharmacy interns; pharmacy technicians;  
21      dentists; health access dental licenses; dental  
22      hygienists; midwives; speech-language pathologists and  
23      audiologists; speech-language pathology assistants and  
24      audiology assistants; nursing home administrators;  
25      occupational therapists and occupational therapy  
26      assistants; occupational therapist and occupational  
27      therapy assistant licenses by endorsement; respiratory  
28      therapists; respiratory therapist licenses by  
29      endorsement; dietitian/nutritionists;

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30 dietitian/nutritionist licenses by endorsement;  
31 practitioners of orthotics, prosthetics, or  
32 pedorthics; electrologists; clinical laboratory  
33 personnel; medical physicists; genetic counselors;  
34 opticians; hearing aid specialists; physical  
35 therapists; physical therapist assistants;  
36 psychologists and school psychologists; provisional  
37 licenses for psychologists; psychologist and school  
38 psychologist licenses by endorsement; intern  
39 registrations for clinical social work, marriage and  
40 family therapy, and mental health counseling;  
41 provisional licenses for clinical social workers,  
42 marriage and family therapists, and mental health  
43 counselors; clinical social workers, marriage and  
44 family therapists, and mental health counselors; and  
45 clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist,  
46 and mental health counselor licenses by endorsement,  
47 respectively, to include background screening  
48 requirements; making conforming and technical changes;  
49 amending ss. 486.025, 486.0715, 486.1065, and 491.003,  
50 F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an  
51 effective date.

52

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

54

55 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 456.0135, Florida  
56 Statutes, is amended to read:

57 456.0135 General background screening provisions.—

58 (1) An application for initial licensure received on or

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59 after January 1, 2013, under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter  
60 460, chapter 461, chapter 462, chapter 463, chapter 464, chapter  
61 465 s. 465.022, chapter 466, chapter 467, part I, part II, part  
62 III, part V, part X, part XIII, or part XIV of chapter 468,  
63 chapter 478, ~~or~~ chapter 480, chapter 483, chapter 484, chapter  
64 486, chapter 490, or chapter 491 must ~~shall~~ include fingerprints  
65 pursuant to procedures established by the department through a  
66 vendor approved by the Department of Law Enforcement and fees  
67 imposed for the initial screening and retention of fingerprints.  
68 Fingerprints must be submitted electronically to the Department  
69 of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of  
70 Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal  
71 Bureau of Investigation for national processing. Each board, or  
72 the department if there is no board, must ~~shall~~ screen the  
73 results to determine whether ~~if~~ an applicant meets licensure  
74 requirements. For any subsequent renewal of the applicant's  
75 license which ~~that~~ requires a national criminal history check,  
76 the department shall request the Department of Law Enforcement  
77 to forward the retained fingerprints of the applicant to the  
78 Federal Bureau of Investigation unless the fingerprints are  
79 enrolled in the national retained print arrest notification  
80 program.

81 Section 2. Health care practitioners as defined in s.  
82 456.001, Florida Statutes, who were licensed before July 1,  
83 2024, must comply with the background screening requirements of  
84 s. 456.0135, Florida Statutes, by July 1, 2025.

85 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 457.105, Florida  
86 Statutes, is amended to read:

87 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.-

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88 (2) A person may become licensed to practice acupuncture if  
89 the person applies to the department and meets all of the  
90 following criteria:

91 (a) Is 21 years of age or older, has good moral character,  
92 and has the ability to communicate in English, which is  
93 demonstrated by having passed the national written examination  
94 in English or, if such examination was passed in a foreign  
95 language, by also having passed a nationally recognized English  
96 proficiency examination.~~†~~

97 (b) Has completed 60 college credits from an accredited  
98 postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrollment in an  
99 authorized 3-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental  
100 medicine, and has completed a 3-year course of study in  
101 acupuncture and oriental medicine, and effective July 31, 2001,  
102 a 4-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental medicine,  
103 which meets standards established by the board by rule, which  
104 standards include, but are not limited to, successful completion  
105 of academic courses in western anatomy, western physiology,  
106 western pathology, western biomedical terminology, first aid,  
107 and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). However, any person who  
108 enrolled in an authorized course of study in acupuncture before  
109 August 1, 1997, must have completed only a 2-year course of  
110 study which meets standards established by the board by rule,  
111 which standards must include, but are not limited to, successful  
112 completion of academic courses in western anatomy, western  
113 physiology, and western pathology.~~†~~

114 (c) Has successfully completed a board-approved national  
115 certification process, is actively licensed in a state that has  
116 examination requirements that are substantially equivalent to or

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117 more stringent than those of this state, or passes an  
118 examination administered by the department, which examination  
119 tests the applicant's competency and knowledge of the practice  
120 of acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the request of any  
121 applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points must ~~shall~~ be  
122 used in the examination. The examination must ~~shall~~ include a  
123 practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to  
124 practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental  
125 medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and  
126 procedures. ~~and~~

127 (d) Pays the required fees set by the board by rule not to  
128 exceed the following amounts:

129 1. Examination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant cost  
130 to the department for purchase of the written and practical  
131 portions of the examination from a national organization  
132 approved by the board.

133 2. Application fee: \$300.

134 3. Reexamination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant  
135 cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical  
136 portions of the examination from a national organization  
137 approved by the board.

138 4. Initial biennial licensure fee: \$400, if licensed in the  
139 first half of the biennium, and \$200, if licensed in the second  
140 half of the biennium.

141 (e) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.  
142 456.0135.

143 Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 463.006, Florida  
144 Statutes, is amended to read:

145 463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.—

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146 (1) Any person desiring to be a licensed practitioner under  
147 ~~pursuant to~~ this chapter must apply to the department, submit to  
148 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135, and ~~must~~  
149 submit proof to the department that she or he meets all of the  
150 following criteria:

151 (a) Has completed the application forms as required by the  
152 board, remitted an application fee for certification not to  
153 exceed \$250, remitted an examination fee for certification not  
154 to exceed \$250, and remitted an examination fee for licensure  
155 not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

156 (b) Is at least 18 years of age.

157 (c) Has graduated from an accredited school or college of  
158 optometry approved by rule of the board.

159 (d) Is of good moral character.

160 (e) Has successfully completed at least 110 hours of  
161 transcript-quality coursework and clinical training in general  
162 and ocular pharmacology as determined by the board, at an  
163 institution that:

164 1. Has facilities for both didactic and clinical  
165 instructions in pharmacology; and

166 2. Is accredited by a regional or professional accrediting  
167 organization that is recognized and approved by the Commission  
168 on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United  
169 States Department of Education.

170 (f) Has completed at least 1 year of supervised experience  
171 in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of  
172 the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the  
173 optometric experience.

174 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 465.007, Florida

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175 Statutes, is amended to read:

176 465.007 Licensure by examination.—

177 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a pharmacist  
178 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination.  
179 The department shall examine each applicant who the board  
180 certifies has met all of the following criteria:

181 (a) Completed the application form and remitted an  
182 examination fee set by the board not to exceed \$100 plus the  
183 actual per applicant cost to the department for purchase of  
184 portions of the examination from the National Association of  
185 Boards of Pharmacy or a similar national organization. The fees  
186 authorized under this section shall be established in sufficient  
187 amounts to cover administrative costs.

188 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
189 456.0135.

190 (c) Submitted satisfactory proof that she or he is not less  
191 than 18 years of age and:

192 1. Is a recipient of a degree from a school or college of  
193 pharmacy accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and  
194 approved by the United States Office of Education; or

195 2. Is a graduate of a 4-year undergraduate pharmacy program  
196 of a school or college of pharmacy located outside the United  
197 States, has demonstrated proficiency in English by passing both  
198 the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Test  
199 of Spoken English (TSE), has passed the Foreign Pharmacy  
200 Graduate Equivalency Examination that is approved by rule of the  
201 board, and has completed a minimum of 500 hours in a supervised  
202 work activity program within this state under the supervision of  
203 a pharmacist licensed by the department, which program is

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204 approved by the board.

205 (d) ~~(e)~~ Submitted satisfactory proof that she or he has  
206 completed an internship program approved by the board. No such  
207 board-approved program shall exceed 2,080 hours, all of which  
208 may be obtained prior to graduation.

209 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 465.0075, Florida  
210 Statutes, is amended to read:

211 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—

212 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to  
213 any applicant who applies to the department and remits a  
214 nonrefundable fee of not more than \$100, as set by the board,  
215 and who whom the board certifies has met all of the following  
216 criteria:

217 (a) ~~Has~~ Met the qualifications for licensure in s.  
218 465.007(1)(b), and (c), and (d).~~†~~

219 (b) ~~Has~~ Obtained a passing score, as established by rule of  
220 the board, on the licensure examination of the National  
221 Association of Boards of Pharmacy or a similar nationally  
222 recognized examination, if the board certifies that the  
223 applicant has taken the required examination.~~†~~

224 (c)1. ~~Has~~ Submitted evidence of the active licensed  
225 practice of pharmacy, including practice in community or public  
226 health by persons employed by a governmental entity, in another  
227 jurisdiction for at least 2 of the immediately preceding 5 years  
228 or evidence of successful completion of board-approved  
229 postgraduate training or a board-approved clinical competency  
230 examination within the year immediately preceding application  
231 for licensure; or

232 2. ~~Has~~ Completed an internship meeting the requirements of



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233 s. 465.007(1)(d) ~~s. 465.007(1)(e)~~ within the 2 years immediately  
234 preceding application. ~~and~~

235 (d) ~~Has~~ Obtained a passing score on the pharmacy  
236 jurisprudence portions of the licensure examination, as required  
237 by board rule.

238 Section 7. Section 465.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
239 read:

240 465.013 Registration of pharmacy interns.—The department  
241 shall register as pharmacy interns persons certified by the  
242 board as being enrolled in an intern program at an accredited  
243 school or college of pharmacy or who are graduates of accredited  
244 schools or colleges of pharmacy and are not yet licensed in the  
245 state. Applicants for registration must submit to background  
246 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. The board may refuse  
247 to certify to the department or may revoke the registration of  
248 any intern for good cause, including grounds enumerated in this  
249 chapter for revocation of pharmacists' licenses.

250 Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 465.014, Florida  
251 Statutes, is amended to read:

252 465.014 Pharmacy technician.—

253 (2) Any person who wishes to work as a pharmacy technician  
254 in this state must register by filing an application with the  
255 board on a form adopted by rule of the board and submit to  
256 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. The board  
257 shall register each applicant who has remitted a registration  
258 fee set by the board, not to exceed \$50 biennially; has  
259 completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable  
260 application fee set by the board, not to exceed \$50; has  
261 submitted to background screening; is at least 17 years of age;

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262 and has completed a pharmacy technician training program  
263 approved by the Board of Pharmacy. Notwithstanding any  
264 requirements in this subsection, any registered pharmacy  
265 technician registered pursuant to this section before January 1,  
266 2011, who has worked as a pharmacy technician for a minimum of  
267 1,500 hours under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist or  
268 received certification as a pharmacy technician by certification  
269 program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying  
270 Agencies is exempt from the requirement to complete an initial  
271 training program for purposes of registration as required by  
272 this subsection.

273 Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
274 466.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

275 466.006 Examination of dentists.-

276 (1)

277 (b)1. Any person desiring to be licensed as a dentist shall  
278 apply to the department to take the licensure examinations and  
279 shall verify the information required on the application by  
280 oath. The application must ~~shall~~ include two recent photographs.  
281 There shall be an application fee set by the board not to exceed  
282 \$100 which shall be nonrefundable and. ~~There shall also be an~~  
283 ~~examination fee set by the board, which shall not to exceed \$425~~  
284 plus the actual per applicant cost to the department for  
285 purchase of some or all of the examination from the American  
286 Board of Dental Examiners or its successor entity, if any,  
287 provided the board finds the successor entity's clinical  
288 examination complies with ~~the provisions of~~ this section. The  
289 examination fee may be refunded ~~refundable~~ if the applicant is  
290 found ineligible to take the examinations.

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291       2. Applicants for licensure must also submit to background  
292 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

293       Section 10. Section 466.0067, Florida Statutes, is amended  
294 to read:

295       466.0067 Application for health access dental license.—The  
296 Legislature finds that there is an important state interest in  
297 attracting dentists to practice in underserved health access  
298 settings in this state and further, that allowing out-of-state  
299 dentists who meet certain criteria to practice in health access  
300 settings without the supervision of a dentist licensed in this  
301 state is substantially related to achieving this important state  
302 interest. Therefore, notwithstanding the requirements of s.  
303 466.006, the board shall grant a health access dental license to  
304 practice dentistry in this state in health access settings as  
305 defined in s. 466.003 to an applicant who meets all of the  
306 following criteria:

307       (1) Files an appropriate application approved by the  
308 board.~~†~~

309       (2) Pays an application license fee for a health access  
310 dental license, laws-and-rule exam fee, and an initial licensure  
311 fee. The fees specified in this subsection may not differ from  
312 an applicant seeking licensure pursuant to s. 466.006.~~†~~

313       (3) Has submitted to background screening in accordance  
314 with s. 456.0135 and has not been convicted of or pled nolo  
315 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or  
316 misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care  
317 profession.~~†~~

318       (4) Submits proof of graduation from a dental school  
319 accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the

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320 American Dental Association or its successor agency.†

321 (5) Submits documentation that she or he has completed, or  
322 will obtain before licensure, continuing education equivalent to  
323 this state's requirement for dentists licensed under s. 466.006  
324 for the last full reporting biennium before applying for a  
325 health access dental license.†

326 (6) Submits proof of her or his successful completion of  
327 parts I and II of the dental examination by the National Board  
328 of Dental Examiners and a state or regional clinical dental  
329 licensing examination that the board has determined effectively  
330 measures the applicant's ability to practice safely.†

331 (7) Currently holds a valid, active dental license in good  
332 standing which has not been revoked, suspended, restricted, or  
333 otherwise disciplined from another of the United States, the  
334 District of Columbia, or a United States territory.†

335 (8) Has never had a license revoked from another of the  
336 United States, the District of Columbia, or a United States  
337 territory.†

338 (9) Has never failed the examination specified in s.  
339 466.006, unless the applicant was reexamined pursuant to s.  
340 466.006 and received a license to practice dentistry in this  
341 state.†

342 (10) Has not been reported to the National Practitioner  
343 Data Bank, unless the applicant successfully appealed to have  
344 his or her name removed from the data bank.†

345 (11) Submits proof that he or she has been engaged in the  
346 active, clinical practice of dentistry providing direct patient  
347 care for 5 years immediately preceding the date of application,  
348 or in instances when the applicant has graduated from an

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349 accredited dental school within the preceding 5 years, submits  
350 proof of continuous clinical practice providing direct patient  
351 care since graduation. ~~and~~

352 (12) Has passed an examination covering the laws and rules  
353 of the practice of dentistry in this state as described in s.  
354 466.006(4) (a).

355 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 466.007, Florida  
356 Statutes, is amended to read:

357 466.007 Examination of dental hygienists.—

358 (1)1. Any person desiring to be licensed as a dental  
359 hygienist shall apply to the department to take the licensure  
360 examinations and shall verify the information required on the  
361 application by oath. The application must ~~shall~~ include two  
362 recent photographs of the applicant. There shall be a  
363 nonrefundable application fee set by the board not to exceed  
364 \$100 and an examination fee set by the board ~~which shall~~ not to  
365 exceed ~~be more than~~ \$225. The examination fee may be refunded if  
366 the applicant is found ineligible to take the examinations.

367 2. Applicants for licensure must also submit to background  
368 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

369 Section 12. Subsection (5) is added to section 467.011,  
370 Florida Statutes, to read:

371 467.011 Licensed midwives; qualifications; examination.—The  
372 department shall issue a license to practice midwifery to an  
373 applicant who meets all of the following criteria:

374 (5) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.  
375 456.0135.

376 Section 13. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 468.1185,  
377 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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378 468.1185 Licensure.—

379 (2) The board shall certify for licensure any applicant who  
380 has met all of the following criteria:

381 (a) Satisfied the education and supervised clinical  
382 requirements of s. 468.1155.

383 (b) Satisfied the professional experience requirement of s.  
384 468.1165.

385 (c) Passed the licensure examination required by s.  
386 468.1175.

387 (d) For an applicant for an audiologist license who has  
388 obtained a doctoral degree in audiology, has satisfied the  
389 education and supervised clinical requirements of paragraph (a)  
390 and the professional experience requirements of paragraph (b).

391 (e) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
392 456.0135.

393 (3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by  
394 endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist an  
395 applicant who:

396 (a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state  
397 or territory of the United States to practice the profession for  
398 which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for  
399 issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or  
400 more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this  
401 state at the time the license was issued; or

402 (b) Holds a valid certificate of clinical competence of the  
403 American Speech-Language and Hearing Association or board  
404 certification in audiology from the American Board of Audiology;  
405 and

406 (c) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.

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407 456.0135.

408 Section 14. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.1215,  
409 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

410 468.1215 Speech-language pathology assistant and audiology  
411 assistant; certification.—

412 (1) The department shall issue a certificate as a speech-  
413 language pathology assistant to each applicant who the board  
414 certifies has met all of the following criteria:

415 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the  
416 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

417 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
418 456.0135.

419 (c) Earned a bachelor's degree from a college or university  
420 accredited by a regional association of colleges and schools  
421 recognized by the Department of Education which includes at  
422 least 24 semester hours of coursework as approved by the board  
423 at an institution accredited by an accrediting agency recognized  
424 by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

425 (2) The department shall issue a certificate as an  
426 audiology assistant to each applicant who the board certifies  
427 has met all of the following criteria:

428 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the  
429 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

430 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
431 456.0135.

432 (c) Earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

433 Section 15. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of  
434 section 468.1695, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
435 subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection

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436 (2) is added to that section, and present subsection (2) of that  
437 section is amended, to read:

438 468.1695 Licensure by examination.—

439 (2) Applicants for licensure must also submit to background  
440 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

441 (3)~~(2)~~ The department shall examine each applicant who the  
442 board certifies has completed the application form, submitted to  
443 background screening, and remitted an examination fee set by the  
444 board not to exceed \$250 and who:

445 (a)1. Holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited  
446 college or university and majored in health care administration,  
447 health services administration, or an equivalent major, or has  
448 credit for at least 60 semester hours in subjects, as prescribed  
449 by rule of the board, which prepare the applicant for total  
450 management of a nursing home; and

451 2. Has fulfilled the requirements of a college-affiliated  
452 or university-affiliated internship in nursing home  
453 administration or of a 1,000-hour nursing home administrator-in-  
454 training program prescribed by the board; or

455 (b)1. Holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited  
456 college or university; and

457 2.a. Has fulfilled the requirements of a 2,000-hour nursing  
458 home administrator-in-training program prescribed by the board;  
459 or

460 b. Has 1 year of management experience allowing for the  
461 application of executive duties and skills, including the  
462 staffing, budgeting, and directing of resident care, dietary,  
463 and bookkeeping departments within a skilled nursing facility,  
464 hospital, hospice, assisted living facility with a minimum of 60



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465 licensed beds, or geriatric residential treatment program and,  
466 if such experience is not in a skilled nursing facility, has  
467 fulfilled the requirements of a 1,000-hour nursing home  
468 administrator-in-training program prescribed by the board.

469 Section 16. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.209,  
470 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

471 468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

472 (1) An applicant applying for a license as an occupational  
473 therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant shall apply to  
474 the department on forms furnished by the department. The  
475 department shall license each applicant who the board certifies  
476 meets all of the following criteria:

477 (a) Has completed the ~~file a written~~ application form and  
478 ~~remitted, accompanied by~~ the application for licensure fee  
479 prescribed in s. 468.221.

480 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance  
481 with s. 456.0135., ~~on forms provided by the department, showing~~  
482 ~~to the satisfaction of the board that she or he:~~

483 (c) ~~(a)~~ Is of good moral character.

484 (d) ~~(b)~~ Has successfully completed the academic requirements  
485 of an educational program in occupational therapy recognized by  
486 the board, with concentration in biologic or physical science,  
487 psychology, and sociology, and with education in selected manual  
488 skills. Such a program shall be accredited by the American  
489 Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation Council for  
490 Occupational Therapy Education, or its successor.

491 (e) ~~(c)~~ Has successfully completed a period of supervised  
492 fieldwork experience at a recognized educational institution or  
493 a training program approved by the educational institution where

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494 she or he met the academic requirements. For an occupational  
495 therapist, a minimum of 6 months of supervised fieldwork  
496 experience is required. For an occupational therapy assistant, a  
497 minimum of 2 months of supervised fieldwork experience is  
498 required.

499 (f) ~~(d)~~ Has passed an examination conducted or adopted by  
500 the board as provided in s. 468.211.

501 (2) An applicant who has practiced as a state-licensed or  
502 American Occupational Therapy Association-certified occupational  
503 therapy assistant for 4 years and who, before January 24, 1988,  
504 completed a minimum of 24 weeks of supervised occupational-  
505 therapist-level fieldwork experience may take the examination to  
506 be licensed as an occupational therapist without meeting the  
507 educational requirements for occupational therapists made  
508 otherwise applicable under paragraph (1) (d) ~~(1) (b)~~.

509 Section 17. Subsection (3) is added to section 468.213,  
510 Florida Statutes, to read:

511 468.213 Licensure by endorsement.—

512 (3) Applicants for licensure by endorsement must submit to  
513 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

514 Section 18. Section 468.355, Florida Statutes, is amended  
515 to read:

516 468.355 Licensure requirements.—To be eligible for  
517 licensure by the board, an applicant must be an active  
518 “certified respiratory therapist” or an active “registered  
519 respiratory therapist” as designated by the National Board for  
520 Respiratory Care, or its successor, and submit to background  
521 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

522 Section 19. Subsection (4) of section 468.358, Florida

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523 Statutes, is amended to read:

524 468.358 Licensure by endorsement.-

525 (4) Applicants for licensure ~~shall not be granted by~~  
526 endorsement under as provided in this section must submit  
527 ~~without the submission of a proper application, remit and the~~  
528 ~~payment of the requisite~~ application fee, and submit to  
529 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135 fees  
530 ~~therefor.~~

531 Section 20. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of  
532 section 468.509, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
533 subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection  
534 (2) is added to that section, and present subsection (2) of that  
535 section is amended, to read:

536 468.509 Dietitian/nutritionist; requirements for  
537 licensure.-

538 (2) Applicants for licensure must also submit to background  
539 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

540 (3)~~(2)~~ The department shall examine any applicant who the  
541 board certifies has completed the application form, submitted to  
542 background screening, and remitted the application and  
543 examination fees specified in s. 468.508 and who:

544 (a)1. Possesses a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree  
545 with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and  
546 nutrition, dietetics, or food management, or an equivalent major  
547 course of study, from a school or program accredited, at the  
548 time of the applicant's graduation, by the appropriate  
549 accrediting agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition  
550 of Postsecondary Accreditation and the United States Department  
551 of Education; and

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552           2. Has completed a preprofessional experience component of  
553 not less than 900 hours or has education or experience  
554 determined to be equivalent by the board; or

555           (b)1. Has an academic degree, from a foreign country, that  
556 has been validated by an accrediting agency approved by the  
557 United States Department of Education as equivalent to the  
558 baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree conferred by a  
559 regionally accredited college or university in the United  
560 States;

561           2. Has completed a major course of study in human  
562 nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics, or food management;  
563 and

564           3. Has completed a preprofessional experience component of  
565 not less than 900 hours or has education or experience  
566 determined to be equivalent by the board.

567           Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 468.513, Florida  
568 Statutes, is amended to read:

569           468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.-

570           (1) The department shall issue a license to practice  
571 dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who  
572 submits to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135  
573 and the board certifies as qualified, upon receipt of a  
574 completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.

575           Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 468.803, Florida  
576 Statutes, is amended to read:

577           468.803 License, registration, and examination  
578 requirements.-

579           (2) An applicant for registration, examination, or  
580 licensure must apply to the department on a form prescribed by

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581 the board for consideration of board approval. Each initial  
582 applicant shall submit fingerprints to the department in  
583 accordance with s. 456.0135 and any other procedures specified  
584 by the department for state and national criminal history checks  
585 of the applicant. The board shall screen the results to  
586 determine if an applicant meets licensure requirements. The  
587 board shall consider for examination, registration, or licensure  
588 each applicant whom the board verifies meets all of the  
589 following criteria:

590 (a) Has submitted the completed application and completed  
591 the fingerprinting requirements and has paid the applicable  
592 application fee, not to exceed \$500. The application fee is  
593 nonrefundable.~~†~~

594 (b) Is of good moral character.~~†~~

595 (c) Is 18 years of age or older.~~†~~ ~~and~~

596 (d) Has completed the appropriate educational preparation.

597 Section 23. Subsection (1) of section 478.45, Florida  
598 Statutes, is amended to read:

599 478.45 Requirements for licensure.—

600 (1) An applicant applying for licensure as an electrologist  
601 shall apply to the department on forms furnished by the  
602 department. The department shall license each applicant who the  
603 board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

604 (a) Has completed the file a written application form and  
605 remitted, ~~accompanied by~~ the application for licensure fee  
606 prescribed in s. 478.55.

607 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance  
608 with s. 456.0135, ~~on a form provided by the board, showing to~~  
609 ~~the satisfaction of the board that the applicant:~~

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610        (c)~~(a)~~ Is at least 18 years old.

611        (d)~~(b)~~ Is of good moral character.

612        (e)~~(e)~~ Possesses a high school diploma or a high school  
613 equivalency diploma.

614        (f)~~(d)~~ Has not committed an act in any jurisdiction which  
615 would constitute grounds for disciplining an electrologist in  
616 this state.

617        (g)~~(e)~~ Has successfully completed the academic requirements  
618 of an electrolysis training program, not to exceed 120 hours,  
619 and the practical application thereof as approved by the board.

620        Section 24. Section 483.815, Florida Statutes, is amended  
621 to read:

622        483.815 Application for clinical laboratory personnel  
623 license.—An application for a clinical laboratory personnel  
624 license shall be made under oath on forms provided by the  
625 department and shall be accompanied by payment of fees as  
626 provided by this part. Applicants for licensure must also submit  
627 to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. A  
628 license may be issued authorizing the performance of procedures  
629 of one or more categories.

630        Section 25. Present paragraphs (b) through (k) of  
631 subsection (4) of section 483.901, Florida Statutes, are  
632 redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (l), respectively, a new  
633 paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of  
634 that subsection is amended, to read:

635        483.901 Medical physicists; definitions; licensure.—

636        (4) LICENSE REQUIRED.—An individual may not engage in the  
637 practice of medical physics, including the specialties of  
638 diagnostic radiological physics, therapeutic radiological

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639 physics, medical nuclear radiological physics, or medical health  
640 physics, without a license issued by the department for the  
641 appropriate specialty.

642 (a) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
643 section which specify license application and renewal fees,  
644 continuing education requirements, background screening  
645 requirements, and standards for practicing medical physics. The  
646 department shall require a minimum of 24 hours per biennium of  
647 continuing education offered by an organization approved by the  
648 department. The department may adopt rules to specify continuing  
649 education requirements for persons who hold a license in more  
650 than one specialty.

651 (b) Applicants for a medical physicist license must submit  
652 to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

653 Section 26. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 483.914,  
654 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

655 483.914 Licensure requirements.—

656 (2) The department shall issue a license, valid for 2  
657 years, to each applicant who meets all of the following  
658 criteria:

659 (a) Has completed an application.

660 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance  
661 with s. 456.0135.

662 (c) Is of good moral character.

663 (d) ~~(e)~~ Provides satisfactory documentation of having  
664 earned:

665 1. A master's degree from a genetic counseling training  
666 program or its equivalent as determined by the Accreditation  
667 Council of Genetic Counseling or its successor or an equivalent

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668 entity; or

669 2. A doctoral degree from a medical genetics training  
670 program accredited by the American Board of Medical Genetics and  
671 Genomics or the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists.

672 (e)~~(d)~~ Has passed the examination for certification as:

673 1. A genetic counselor by the American Board of Genetic  
674 Counseling, Inc., the American Board of Medical Genetics and  
675 Genomics, or the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors; or

676 2. A medical or clinical geneticist by the American Board  
677 of Medical Genetics and Genomics or the Canadian College of  
678 Medical Geneticists.

679 (3) The department may issue a temporary license for up to  
680 2 years to an applicant who meets all requirements for licensure  
681 except for the certification examination requirement imposed  
682 under paragraph (2)(e) ~~(2)(d)~~ and is eligible to sit for that  
683 certification examination.

684 Section 27. Subsection (1) of section 484.007, Florida  
685 Statutes, is amended to read:

686 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical  
687 establishments.—

688 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply  
689 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a  
690 licensure examination. The department shall examine each  
691 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following  
692 criteria:

693 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a  
694 nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of  
695 \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the  
696 amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the



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697 department for purchase of portions of the examination from the  
698 American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization,  
699 or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant  
700 ineligible to take the examination.†

701 (b) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.  
702 456.0135.

703 (c) Is not less than 18 years of age.†

704 (d)~~(e)~~ Is a graduate of an accredited high school or  
705 possesses a certificate of equivalency of a high school  
706 education.† ~~and~~

707 (e)1.~~(d)1.~~ Has received an associate degree, or its  
708 equivalent, in opticianry from an educational institution the  
709 curriculum of which is accredited by an accrediting agency  
710 recognized and approved by the United States Department of  
711 Education or the Council on Postsecondary Education or approved  
712 by the board;

713 2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of  
714 opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another  
715 state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has  
716 actively practiced in such other state, territory, or  
717 jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding  
718 application, and who meets the examination qualifications as  
719 provided in this subsection;

720 3. Is an individual who has actively practiced in another  
721 state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for more  
722 than 5 years immediately preceding application and who provides  
723 tax or business records, affidavits, or other satisfactory  
724 documentation of such practice and who meets the examination  
725 qualifications as provided in this subsection; or

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726 4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department and  
727 paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of the  
728 board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training  
729 under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for  
730 at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under  
731 the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5  
732 years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in  
733 a recognized school may be considered as part of the  
734 apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish  
735 administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of  
736 administering apprentice rules adopted ~~as promulgated~~ by the  
737 board.

738 Section 28. Subsection (2) of section 484.045, Florida  
739 Statutes, is amended to read:

740 484.045 Licensure by examination.—

741 (2) The department shall license each applicant who the  
742 board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

743 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted the  
744 required fees.

745 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance  
746 with s. 456.0135.

747 (c) Is of good moral character.

748 (d) ~~(e)~~ Is 18 years of age or older.

749 (e) ~~(d)~~ Is a graduate of an accredited high school or its  
750 equivalent.

751 (f) 1. ~~(e)~~1. Has met the requirements of the training  
752 program; or

753 2.a. Has a valid, current license as a hearing aid  
754 specialist or its equivalent from another state and has been

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755 actively practicing in such capacity for at least 12 months; or

756 b. Is currently certified by the National Board for  
757 Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences and has been  
758 actively practicing for at least 12 months.

759 (g) ~~(f)~~ Has passed an examination, as prescribed by board  
760 rule.

761 (h) ~~(g)~~ Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of  
762 the board, knowledge of state laws and rules relating to the  
763 fitting and dispensing of prescription hearing aids.

764 Section 29. Section 486.031, Florida Statutes, is amended  
765 to read:

766 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be  
767 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant  
768 must meet all of the following criteria:

769 (1) Be at least 18 years old.†

770 (2) Be of good moral character.‡

771 (3) Have submitted to background screening in accordance  
772 with s. 456.0135.† ~~and~~

773 (4) (a) ~~(3) (a)~~ Have been graduated from a school of physical  
774 therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation  
775 of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency  
776 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or  
777 its successor entity, Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
778 Accreditation or the United States Department of Education at  
779 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the  
780 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination  
781 prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to  
782 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical  
783 therapist as hereinafter provided;

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784 (b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical  
785 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials  
786 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational  
787 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as  
788 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,  
789 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination  
790 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical  
791 therapist as hereinafter provided; or

792 (c) Be entitled to licensure without examination as  
793 provided in s. 486.081.

794 Section 30. Section 486.102, Florida Statutes, is amended  
795 to read:

796 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing  
797 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a  
798 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must meet all of the  
799 following criteria:

800 (1) Be at least 18 years old.~~†~~

801 (2) Be of good moral character.

802 (3) Have submitted to background screening in accordance  
803 with s. 456.0135.~~†~~ and

804 (4) (a) ~~(3) (a)~~ Have ~~been~~ graduated from a school giving a  
805 course of not less than 2 years for physical therapist  
806 assistants, which has been approved for the educational  
807 preparation of physical therapist assistants by the appropriate  
808 accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher  
809 Education Accreditation, or its successor entity, ~~Commission on~~  
810 ~~Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation~~ or the United States  
811 Department of Education~~†~~ at the time of her or his graduation  
812 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination

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813 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical  
814 therapist assistant as hereinafter provided;

815 (b) Have ~~been~~ graduated from a school giving a course for  
816 physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have  
817 educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for  
818 the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in  
819 this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as  
820 identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the  
821 board an examination to determine her or his fitness for  
822 practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter  
823 provided;

824 (c) Be entitled to licensure without examination as  
825 provided in s. 486.107; or

826 (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,  
827 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state  
828 which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

829 1. Have ~~been graduated or be eligible to graduate from such~~  
830 ~~school no later than July 1, 2018; and~~

831 2. Have passed to the satisfaction of the board an  
832 examination to determine his or her fitness for practice as a  
833 physical therapist assistant as provided in s. 486.104.

834 Section 31. Present paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of  
835 subsection (1) of section 490.005, Florida Statutes, are  
836 redesignated as paragraphs (c), (d), and (e), respectively, a  
837 new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and subsection  
838 (2) is amended, to read:

839 490.005 Licensure by examination.—

840 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a psychologist  
841 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination.

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842 The department shall license each applicant whom the board  
843 certifies has met all of the following requirements:

844 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
845 456.0135.

846 (2) Any person desiring to be licensed as a school  
847 psychologist shall apply to the department to take the licensure  
848 examination. The department shall license each applicant who the  
849 department certifies has met all of the following requirements:

850 (a) Satisfactorily completed the application form and  
851 submitted a nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$250 and  
852 an examination fee sufficient to cover the per applicant cost to  
853 the department for development, purchase, and administration of  
854 the examination, but not to exceed \$250 as set by department  
855 rule.

856 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
857 456.0135.

858 (c) Submitted satisfactory proof to the department that the  
859 applicant:

860 1. Has received a doctorate, specialist, or equivalent  
861 degree from a program primarily psychological in nature and has  
862 completed 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate  
863 study, in areas related to school psychology as defined by rule  
864 of the department, from a college or university which at the  
865 time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was accredited by  
866 an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the Council for  
867 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or  
868 from an institution that is a member in good standing with the  
869 Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

870 2. Has had a minimum of 3 years of experience in school

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871 psychology, 2 years of which must be supervised by an individual  
872 who is a licensed school psychologist or who has otherwise  
873 qualified as a school psychologist supervisor, by education and  
874 experience, as set forth by rule of the department. A doctoral  
875 internship may be applied toward the supervision requirement.

876 3. Has passed an examination provided by the department.

877 Section 32. Present paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection  
878 (1) of section 490.0051, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
879 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, and a new paragraph (b) is  
880 added to that subsection, to read:

881 490.0051 Provisional licensure; requirements.—

882 (1) The department shall issue a provisional psychology  
883 license to each applicant whom the board certifies has met all  
884 of the following criteria:

885 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
886 456.0135.

887 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 490.006, Florida  
888 Statutes, is amended to read:

889 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

890 (1) The department shall license a person as a psychologist  
891 or school psychologist who, upon applying to the department,  
892 submitting to background screening in accordance with s.

893 456.0135, and remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to the  
894 department or, in the case of psychologists, to the board that  
895 the applicant:

896 (a) Is a diplomate in good standing with the American Board  
897 of Professional Psychology, Inc.; or

898 (b) Possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has at  
899 least 10 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any

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900 jurisdiction or territory of the United States within the 25  
901 years preceding the date of application.

902 Section 34. Subsections (1), (2), (4), and (6) of section  
903 491.0045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

904 491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

905 (1) An individual who has not satisfied the postgraduate or  
906 post-master's level experience requirements, as specified in s.  
907 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), or~~  
908 ~~(4)(e)~~, must register as an intern in the profession for which  
909 he or she is seeking licensure before commencing the post-  
910 master's experience requirement or an individual who intends to  
911 satisfy part of the required graduate-level practicum,  
912 internship, or field experience, outside the academic arena for  
913 any profession, and must register as an intern in the profession  
914 for which he or she is seeking licensure before commencing the  
915 practicum, internship, or field experience.

916 (2) The department shall register as a clinical social  
917 worker intern, marriage and family therapist intern, or mental  
918 health counselor intern each applicant who the board certifies  
919 has met all of the following criteria:

920 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a  
921 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
922 board rule.†

923 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
924 456.0135.

925 (c) 1. Completed the education requirements as specified in  
926 s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), or~~  
927 ~~(4)(e)~~ for the profession for which he or she is applying for  
928 licensure, if needed; and



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929           2. Submitted an acceptable supervision plan, as determined  
930 by the board, for meeting the practicum, internship, or field  
931 work required for licensure that was not satisfied in his or her  
932 graduate program.

933           (d)~~(e)~~ Identified a qualified supervisor.

934           (4) An individual who fails to comply with this section may  
935 not be granted a license under this chapter, and any time spent  
936 by the individual completing the experience requirement as  
937 specified in s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s.~~  
938 ~~491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), or (4)(e)~~ before registering as an intern  
939 does not count toward completion of the requirement.

940           (6) Any registration issued after March 31, 2017, expires  
941 60 months after the date it is issued. The board may make a one-  
942 time exception to the requirements of this subsection in  
943 emergency or hardship cases, as defined by board rule, if the  
944 candidate has passed the theory and practice examination  
945 described in s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), and (4)(e) ~~s.~~  
946 ~~491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), and (4)(d)~~.

947           Section 35. Subsection (2) of section 491.0046, Florida  
948 Statutes, is amended to read:

949           491.0046 Provisional license; requirements.—

950           (2) The department shall issue a provisional clinical  
951 social worker license, provisional marriage and family therapist  
952 license, or provisional mental health counselor license to each  
953 applicant who the board certifies has met all of the following  
954 criteria:

955           (a) Completed the application form and remitted a  
956 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$100, as set by  
957 board rule. ~~† and~~

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958 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
 959 456.0135.

960 (c) Earned a graduate degree in social work, a graduate  
 961 degree with a major emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a  
 962 closely related field, or a graduate degree in a major related  
 963 to the practice of mental health counseling. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

964 (d) ~~(e)~~ Met the following minimum coursework requirements:

965 1. For clinical social work, a minimum of 15 semester hours  
 966 or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required by s.  
 967 491.005(1)(c)2.b. ~~s. 491.005(1)(b)2.b.~~

968 2. For marriage and family therapy, 10 of the courses  
 969 required by s. 491.005(3)(c) ~~s. 491.005(3)(b)~~, as determined by  
 970 the board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of  
 971 the course credits must have been completed in the area of  
 972 marriage and family systems, theories, or techniques.

973 3. For mental health counseling, a minimum of seven of the  
 974 courses required under s. 491.005(4)(c)1.a., b., or c. ~~s.~~  
 975 ~~491.005(4)(b)1.a.-c.~~

976 Section 36. Subsections (1) through (4) of section 491.005,  
 977 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

978 491.005 Licensure by examination.—

979 (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of  
 980 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
 981 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a clinical  
 982 social worker to an applicant whom the board certifies has met  
 983 all of the following criteria:

984 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

985 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
 986 456.0135.

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987        (c)1. Received a doctoral degree in social work from a  
988 graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant  
989 graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by  
990 the United States Department of Education or received a master's  
991 degree in social work from a graduate school of social work  
992 which at the time the applicant graduated:

993           a. Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;

994           b. Was accredited by the Canadian Association for Social  
995 Work Education; or

996           c. Has been determined to have been a program equivalent to  
997 programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by the  
998 Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on  
999 Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program  
1000 at a university or college outside of the United States or  
1001 Canada must present documentation of the equivalency  
1002 determination from the council in order to qualify.

1003        2. The applicant's graduate program emphasized direct  
1004 clinical patient or client health care services, including, but  
1005 not limited to, coursework in clinical social work, psychiatric  
1006 social work, medical social work, social casework,  
1007 psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's graduate  
1008 program must have included all of the following coursework:

1009           a. A supervised field placement which was part of the  
1010 applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during  
1011 which the applicant provided clinical services directly to  
1012 clients.

1013           b. Completion of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in  
1014 theory of human behavior and practice methods as courses in  
1015 clinically oriented services, including a minimum of one course

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1016 in psychopathology, and no more than one course in research,  
1017 taken in a school of social work accredited or approved pursuant  
1018 to subparagraph 1.

1019 3. If the course title which appears on the applicant's  
1020 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
1021 coursework, the applicant provided additional documentation,  
1022 including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description  
1023 published for the course.

1024 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical social work  
1025 experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a  
1026 graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the  
1027 accreditation requirements of this section, under the  
1028 supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the  
1029 equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the  
1030 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to  
1031 satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant  
1032 to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's  
1033 graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct  
1034 clinical patient or client health care services as described in  
1035 subparagraph (c)2. ~~(b)2.~~, the supervised experience requirement  
1036 must take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of  
1037 15 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework  
1038 required. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the  
1039 clinical social work experience requirement. A licensed mental  
1040 health professional must be on the premises when clinical  
1041 services are provided by a registered intern in a private  
1042 practice setting.

1043 (e)~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated  
1044 by board rule.

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1045        (f)~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,  
1046 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of  
1047 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental  
1048 health counseling.

1049            (2) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—

1050            (a) Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ paragraph (1) (c)  
1051 ~~(1) (b)~~, coursework which was taken at a baccalaureate level  
1052 shall not be considered toward completion of education  
1053 requirements for licensure unless an official of the graduate  
1054 program certifies in writing on the graduate school's stationery  
1055 that a specific course, which students enrolled in the same  
1056 graduate program were ordinarily required to complete at the  
1057 graduate level, was waived or exempted based on completion of a  
1058 similar course at the baccalaureate level. If this condition is  
1059 met, the board shall apply the baccalaureate course named toward  
1060 the education requirements.

1061            (b) An applicant from a master's or doctoral program in  
1062 social work which did not emphasize direct patient or client  
1063 services may complete the clinical curriculum content  
1064 requirement by returning to a graduate program accredited by the  
1065 Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of  
1066 Schools of Social Work, or to a clinical social work graduate  
1067 program with comparable standards, in order to complete the  
1068 education requirements for examination. However, a maximum of 6  
1069 semester or 9 quarter hours of the clinical curriculum content  
1070 requirement may be completed by credit awarded for independent  
1071 study coursework as defined by board rule.

1072            (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of  
1073 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by

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1074 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a marriage  
1075 and family therapist to an applicant whom the board certifies  
1076 has met all of the following criteria:

1077 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

1078 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
1079 456.0135.

1080 (c)1. Attained one of the following:

1081 a. A minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family  
1082 therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on  
1083 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

1084 b. A minimum of a master's degree with a major emphasis in  
1085 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field from a  
1086 university program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of  
1087 Counseling and Related Educational Programs and graduate courses  
1088 approved by the board.

1089 c. A minimum of a master's degree with an emphasis in  
1090 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field, with a  
1091 degree conferred before September 1, 2027, from an  
1092 institutionally accredited college or university and graduate  
1093 courses approved by the board.

1094 2. If the course title that appears on the applicant's  
1095 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the  
1096 coursework, the applicant provided additional documentation,  
1097 including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description  
1098 published for the course. The required master's degree must have  
1099 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the  
1100 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an  
1101 institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for  
1102 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or

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1103 was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an  
1104 institution of higher education located outside the United  
1105 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled  
1106 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard  
1107 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of  
1108 training of those institutions in the United States which are  
1109 accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by  
1110 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor  
1111 organization. Such foreign education and training must have been  
1112 received in an institution or program of higher education  
1113 officially recognized by the government of the country in which  
1114 it is located as an institution or program to train students to  
1115 practice as professional marriage and family therapists or  
1116 psychotherapists. The applicant has the burden of establishing  
1117 that the requirements of this provision have been met, and the  
1118 board shall require documentation, such as an evaluation by a  
1119 foreign equivalency determination service, as evidence that the  
1120 applicant's graduate degree program and education were  
1121 equivalent to an accredited program in this country. An  
1122 applicant with a master's degree from a program that did not  
1123 emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete the  
1124 coursework requirement in a training institution fully  
1125 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and  
1126 Family Therapy Education recognized by the United States  
1127 Department of Education.

1128 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience  
1129 during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients were  
1130 receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must be at  
1131 the post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed

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1132 marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of  
1133 experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as  
1134 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice  
1135 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must  
1136 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If  
1137 a graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in  
1138 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field which did  
1139 not include all of the coursework required by paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~,  
1140 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience may not  
1141 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of 10 of  
1142 the courses required by paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~, as determined by the  
1143 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the  
1144 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage  
1145 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 years  
1146 of required experience, the applicant shall provide direct  
1147 individual, group, or family therapy and counseling to cases  
1148 including those involving unmarried dyads, married couples,  
1149 separating and divorcing couples, and family groups that include  
1150 children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the  
1151 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
1152 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
1153 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1154 (e) ~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated  
1155 by board rule.

1156 (f) ~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,  
1157 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of  
1158 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental  
1159 health counseling.

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1161 For the purposes of dual licensure, the department shall license  
1162 as a marriage and family therapist any person who meets the  
1163 requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure may not  
1164 exceed those stated in this subsection.

1165 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of  
1166 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by  
1167 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a mental  
1168 health counselor to an applicant whom the board certifies has  
1169 met all of the following criteria:

1170 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

1171 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
1172 456.0135.

1173 (c)1. Attained a minimum of an earned master's degree from  
1174 a mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for  
1175 the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs  
1176 which consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours  
1177 of clinical and didactic instruction, including a course in  
1178 human sexuality and a course in substance abuse. If the master's  
1179 degree is earned from a program related to the practice of  
1180 mental health counseling which is not accredited by the Council  
1181 for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational  
1182 Programs, then the coursework and practicum, internship, or  
1183 fieldwork must consist of at least 60 semester hours or 80  
1184 quarter hours and meet all of the following requirements:

1185 a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of  
1186 graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester  
1187 hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of  
1188 the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and  
1189 practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment

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1190 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and  
1191 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and  
1192 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social  
1193 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,  
1194 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental  
1195 health counseling. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation  
1196 work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied  
1197 toward this requirement.

1198       b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of  
1199 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,  
1200 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current  
1201 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American  
1202 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of  
1203 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the  
1204 common core curricular experience.

1205       c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least  
1206 700 hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical practicum,  
1207 internship, or field experience that includes at least 280 hours  
1208 of direct client services, as required in the accrediting  
1209 standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and  
1210 Related Educational Programs for mental health counseling  
1211 programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy the post-  
1212 master's clinical experience requirement.

1213       2. Provided additional documentation if a course title that  
1214 appears on the applicant's transcript does not clearly identify  
1215 the content of the coursework. The documentation must include,  
1216 but is not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description  
1217 published for the course.

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1219 Education and training in mental health counseling must have  
1220 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the  
1221 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an  
1222 institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for  
1223 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or  
1224 was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an  
1225 institution of higher education located outside the United  
1226 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled  
1227 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard  
1228 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of  
1229 training of those institutions in the United States which are  
1230 accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by  
1231 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor  
1232 organization. Such foreign education and training must have been  
1233 received in an institution or program of higher education  
1234 officially recognized by the government of the country in which  
1235 it is located as an institution or program to train students to  
1236 practice as mental health counselors. The applicant has the  
1237 burden of establishing that the requirements of this provision  
1238 have been met, and the board shall require documentation, such  
1239 as an evaluation by a foreign equivalency determination service,  
1240 as evidence that the applicant's graduate degree program and  
1241 education were equivalent to an accredited program in this  
1242 country. Beginning July 1, 2025, an applicant must have a  
1243 master's degree from a program that is accredited by the Council  
1244 for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational  
1245 Programs, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation  
1246 Council, or an equivalent accrediting body which consists of at  
1247 least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours to apply for

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1248 licensure under this paragraph.

1249 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience in  
1250 mental health counseling, which must be at the post-master's  
1251 level under the supervision of a licensed mental health  
1252 counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as  
1253 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice  
1254 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must  
1255 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If  
1256 a graduate has a master's degree with a major related to the  
1257 practice of mental health counseling which did not include all  
1258 the coursework required under sub-subparagraphs (c)1.a and b.  
1259 ~~(b)1.a. and b.~~, credit for the post-master's level clinical  
1260 experience may not commence until the applicant has completed a  
1261 minimum of seven of the courses required under sub-subparagraphs  
1262 (c)1.a and b. ~~(b)1.a. and b.~~, as determined by the board, one of  
1263 which must be a course in psychopathology or abnormal  
1264 psychology. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the  
1265 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health  
1266 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are  
1267 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.  
1268 (e)~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated  
1269 by board rule.

1270 (f)~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,  
1271 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of  
1272 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental  
1273 health counseling.

1274 Section 37. Subsection (1) of section 491.006, Florida  
1275 Statutes, is amended to read:

1276 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

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1277 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to  
1278 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon  
1279 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,  
1280 demonstrates to the board that he or she:

1281 (a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of the  
1282 board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of  
1283 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental  
1284 health counseling.

1285 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with s.  
1286 456.0135.

1287 (c)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has  
1288 actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for  
1289 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;

1290 2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing  
1291 examination in another state or has passed the licensure  
1292 examination in this state in the profession for which the  
1293 applicant seeks licensure; and

1294 3. Holds a license in good standing, is not under  
1295 investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of  
1296 this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act  
1297 that would constitute a violation of this chapter.

1298  
1299 The fees paid by any applicant for certification as a master  
1300 social worker under this section are nonrefundable.

1301 Section 38. Section 486.025, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1302 to read:

1303 486.025 Powers and duties of the Board of Physical Therapy  
1304 Practice.—The board may administer oaths, summon witnesses, take  
1305 testimony in all matters relating to its duties under this

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chapter, establish or modify minimum standards of practice of physical therapy as defined in s. 486.021, including, but not limited to, standards of practice for the performance of dry needling by physical therapists, and adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this chapter. The board may also review the standing and reputability of any school or college offering courses in physical therapy and whether the courses of such school or college in physical therapy meet the standards established by the appropriate accrediting agency referred to in s. 486.031(4) (a) ~~s. 486.031(3) (a)~~. In determining the standing and reputability of any such school and whether the school and courses meet such standards, the board may investigate and personally inspect the school and courses.

Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 486.0715, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

486.0715 Physical therapist; issuance of temporary permit.-

(1) The board shall issue a temporary physical therapist permit to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

(b) Is a graduate of an approved United States physical therapy educational program and meets all the eligibility requirements for licensure under chapter ch. 456, s. 486.031(1)-(4) (a) ~~s. 486.031(1)-(3) (a)~~, and related rules, except passage of a national examination approved by the board is not required.

Section 40. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 486.1065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

486.1065 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of temporary permit.-

(1) The board shall issue a temporary physical therapist assistant permit to an applicant who meets the following

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1335 requirements:

1336 (b) Is a graduate of an approved United States physical  
1337 therapy assistant educational program and meets all the  
1338 eligibility requirements for licensure under chapter ~~ch.~~ 456, s.  
1339 486.102(1)-(4)(a) ~~s. 486.102(1)-(3)(a)~~, and related rules,  
1340 except passage of a national examination approved by the board  
1341 is not required.

1342 Section 41. Subsections (15), (16), and (17) of section  
1343 491.003, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1344 491.003 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

1345 (15) "Registered clinical social worker intern" means a  
1346 person registered under this chapter who is completing the  
1347 postgraduate clinical social work experience requirement  
1348 specified in s. 491.005(1)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e)~~.

1349 (16) "Registered marriage and family therapist intern"  
1350 means a person registered under this chapter who is completing  
1351 the post-master's clinical experience requirement specified in  
1352 s. 491.005(3)(d) ~~s. 491.005(3)(e)~~.

1353 (17) "Registered mental health counselor intern" means a  
1354 person registered under this chapter who is completing the post-  
1355 master's clinical experience requirement specified in s.  
1356 491.005(4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(4)(e)~~.

1357 Section 42. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.