

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to reciprocity or endorsement of
3 licensure; amending s. 455.213, F.S.; providing
4 requirements for the applicable board, or the
5 Department of Business and Professional Regulation if
6 there is no board, relating to licensure by
7 reciprocity and by endorsement; defining the term
8 "basis license"; creating s. 455.2135, F.S.; requiring
9 the respective boards of occupations, or the
10 department if there is no board, to allow licensure by
11 endorsement if the applicant meets certain criteria;
12 requiring applicants of professions that require
13 fingerprints for criminal history checks to submit
14 such fingerprints before the board or department
15 issues a license by endorsement; requiring the
16 department, and authorizing the board, to review the
17 results of the criminal history checks according to
18 specific criteria to determine if the applicants meet
19 the requirements for licensure; requiring that the
20 costs associated with fingerprint processing be borne
21 by the applicant; requiring certain agencies or
22 vendors to collect fingerprint processing fees and
23 remit such fees to the Department of Law Enforcement;
24 providing an exemption; creating s. 456.0145, F.S.;
25 providing a short title; requiring the applicable

26 health care regulatory boards, or the Department of
 27 Health if there is no board, to issue a license or
 28 certificate to applicants who meet specified
 29 conditions; defining the term "scope of practice";
 30 requiring the department to verify certain information
 31 using the National Practitioner Data Bank, as
 32 applicable; specifying circumstances under which a
 33 person is ineligible for a license; authorizing boards
 34 or the department, as applicable, to revoke a license
 35 upon a specified finding; requiring boards or the
 36 department, as applicable, to issue licenses within a
 37 specified timeframe; authorizing boards or the
 38 department, as applicable, to require that applicants
 39 successfully complete a jurisprudential examination
 40 under certain circumstances; requiring the department
 41 to submit an annual report to the Governor and the
 42 Legislature by a specified date; providing
 43 requirements for the report; requiring boards and the
 44 department, as applicable, to adopt certain rules
 45 within a specified timeframe; amending ss. 457.105,
 46 458.313, 464.009, 464.203, 465.0075, 467.0125,
 47 468.1185, 468.1705, 468.209, 468.513, 478.47, 480.041,
 48 484.007, 486.081, 486.107, 490.006, and 491.006, F.S.;
 49 revising licensure by endorsement requirements for the
 50 practice of acupuncture, medicine, professional or

51 practical nursing, certified nursing assistants,
 52 pharmacy, midwifery, speech-language pathology and
 53 audiology, nursing home administration, dietetics and
 54 nutrition, electrology, massage therapy, opticianry,
 55 physical therapy, physical therapist assistantship,
 56 psychology and school psychology, and clinical social
 57 work, marriage and family therapy, and mental health
 58 counseling, respectively; repealing s. 468.213, F.S.;
 59 relating to licensure by endorsement for occupational
 60 therapy; amending ss. 486.031 and 486.102, F.S.;
 61 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 62 authorizing boards and the Department of Health, as
 63 applicable, to continue processing applications for
 64 licensure by endorsement, as authorized under the
 65 Florida Statutes (2023), for a specified timeframe;
 66 providing an effective date.

67

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

69

70 Section 1. Subsection (15) of section 455.213, Florida
 71 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (16), and a new subsection
 72 (15) is added to that section to read:

73 455.213 General licensing provisions.—

74 (15) (a) Before the board, or the department if there is no
 75 board, may deny an application for licensure by reciprocity or

76 by endorsement, the board, or the department if there is no
77 board, must make a finding that the basis license in another
78 jurisdiction is or is not substantially equivalent to or is
79 otherwise insufficient for a license in this state.

80 (b) If the board, or the department if there is no board,
81 finds that the basis license in another jurisdiction is not
82 substantially equivalent to or is otherwise insufficient for a
83 license in this state and there are no other grounds to deny the
84 application for licensure, within 7 business days after being
85 notified of such finding, the applicant may request that the
86 finding be submitted to the secretary for review. Within 7
87 business days after receiving such request, the secretary must
88 review the finding and either agree or disagree with the
89 finding. If the secretary agrees with the finding, the
90 application for licensure may be denied. If the secretary
91 disagrees with the finding, the application for licensure must
92 be approved unless other grounds for denial exist. The decision
93 must be entered according to the secretary's finding, unless
94 other grounds for denial exist.

95 (c) If the secretary finds that the requirements of a
96 basis license in another jurisdiction are substantially
97 equivalent to or are otherwise sufficient for a license in this
98 state, the board, or the department if there is no board, must
99 make the same finding for similar applicants from the same
100 jurisdiction, unless the requirements of the basis license

101 change.

102 (d) As used in this subsection, the term "basis license"
103 means the license or the licensure requirements of another
104 jurisdiction which are used to meet the requirements for a
105 license in this state.

106 Section 2. Section 455.2135, Florida Statutes, is created
107 to read:

108 455.2135 Interstate mobility.-

109 (1) When endorsement based on years of licensure is not
110 otherwise provided by law in the practice act for a profession,
111 the board, or the department if there is no board, shall allow
112 licensure by endorsement for any individual applying who:

113 (a) Has held a valid, current license to practice the
114 profession issued by another state or territory of the United
115 States for at least 5 years before the date of application and
116 is applying for the same or similar license in this state;

117 (b) Submits an application either when the license in
118 another state or territory of the United States is active or
119 within 2 years after such license was last active;

120 (c) Has passed the recognized national licensing exam, if
121 such exam is established as a requirement for licensure in the
122 profession;

123 (d) Has no pending disciplinary actions and all sanctions
124 of any prior disciplinary actions have been satisfied;

125 (e) Shows proof of compliance with any federal regulation,

126 training, or certification, if the applicant's profession
127 requires such proof, regarding licensure in the profession;

128 (f) Completes Florida-specific continuing education
129 courses or passes a jurisprudential examination specific to the
130 state laws and rules for the applicable profession as
131 established by the board, or the department if there is no
132 board, if required by the practice act; and

133 (g) Complies with any insurance or bonding requirements as
134 required for the profession.

135 (2) If the applicant's profession requires, the applicant
136 must submit a complete set of fingerprints to the Department of
137 Law Enforcement for a statewide criminal history check. The
138 Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to
139 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal
140 history check. The department shall, and the board may, review
141 the results of the criminal history checks according to the
142 level 2 screening standards in s. 435.04 and determine whether
143 the applicant meets the licensure requirements. The costs of
144 fingerprint processing are borne by the applicant. If the
145 applicant's fingerprints are submitted through an authorized
146 agency or vendor, the agency or vendor must collect the required
147 processing fees and remit the fees to the Department of Law
148 Enforcement.

149 (3) This section does not apply to harbor pilots licensed
150 under chapter 310.

151 Section 3. Section 456.0145, Florida Statutes, is created
 152 to read:

153 456.0145 Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure
 154 Endorsement (MOBILE) Act.-

155 (1) SHORT TITLE.-This section may be cited as the "Mobile
 156 Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement Act" or the
 157 "MOBILE Act."

158 (2) LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT.-

159 (a) An applicable board, or the department if there is no
 160 board, shall issue a license to practice in this state to an
 161 applicant who:

162 1. Submits a complete application.

163 2. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another
 164 state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United
 165 States in a profession with a similar scope of practice, as
 166 determined by the board or department, as applicable. The term
 167 "scope of practice" means the full spectrum of functions,
 168 procedures, actions, and services that a health care
 169 practitioner is deemed competent and authorized to perform under
 170 a license issued in this state.

171 3. Has obtained a passing score on a national licensure
 172 examination, or national certification, as applicable, for which
 173 profession the applicant is seeking licensure in this state, or
 174 meets the requirements of paragraph (b).

175 4. Has actively practiced the profession for which the

176 applicant is applying for at least 2 of the 4 years preceding
177 the date of submission of the application.

178 5. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of
179 submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary
180 proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license
181 or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons
182 related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is
183 applying.

184 6. Has not had disciplinary action taken against him or
185 her in the 5 years preceding the date of submission of the
186 application

187 7. Meets the financial responsibility requirements of s.
188 456.048 or the applicable practice act, if required for the
189 profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure.

190 8. Submits a set of fingerprints for a background
191 screening pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the
192 profession for which he or she is applying.

193
194 The department shall verify information submitted by the
195 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner
196 Data Bank.

197 (b) An applicant for a profession that does not require a
198 national examination or national certification is eligible for
199 licensure if an applicable board, or the department if there is
200 no board, determines that the jurisdiction in which the

201 applicant currently holds an active, unencumbered license meets
202 established minimum education requirements and, if applicable,
203 examination, work experience, and clinical supervision
204 requirements that are substantially similar to the requirements
205 for licensure in that profession in this state.

206 (c) An applicant is ineligible for a license pursuant to
207 this section if he or she:

208 1. Has a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending
209 before a licensing entity in another state, the District of
210 Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States;

211 2. Has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to,
212 regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to
213 the practice of a health care profession;

214 3. Has had a health care provider license revoked or
215 suspended in another state, the District of Columbia, or a
216 territory of the United States or has voluntarily surrendered
217 any such license in lieu of having disciplinary action taken
218 against the license; or

219 4. Has been reported to the National Practitioner Data
220 Bank, unless the applicant has successfully appealed to have his
221 or her name removed from the data bank.

222 (d) The board, or the department if there is no board, may
223 revoke a license upon finding that the applicant provided false
224 or misleading material information or intentionally omitted
225 material information in an application for licensure.

226 (e) The board, or the department if there is no board,
227 shall issue a license to a qualified applicant within 7 days
228 after receipt of all required documentation for an application.

229 (f) The board, or the department if there is no board,
230 shall comply with the requirements of s. 456.025.

231 (3) STATE EXAMINATION.—The board, or the department if
232 there is no board, may require the applicant to successfully
233 complete a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant
234 state laws that regulate the profession, if this chapter or the
235 applicable practice act requires such examination.

236 (4) ANNUAL REPORT.—By December 31 of each year, the
237 department shall submit to the Governor, the President of the
238 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report
239 that provides all of the following information for the previous
240 fiscal year:

241 (a) The number of applications for licensure or
242 certification received under this section, distinguished by
243 profession.

244 (b) The number of licenses or certifications issued under
245 this section.

246 (c) The number of applications submitted under this
247 section which were denied and the reason for such denials.

248 (d) The number of complaints, investigations, or other
249 disciplinary actions taken against health care practitioners who
250 are licensed or certified under this section.

251 (5) RULES.—By December 1, 2024, each applicable board, or
 252 the department if there is no board, shall adopt rules to
 253 implement this section.

254 Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
 255 457.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

256 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

257 (2) A person may become licensed to practice acupuncture
 258 if the person applies to the department and:

259 (c) Has successfully completed a board-approved national
 260 certification process, meets the requirements for licensure by
 261 endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~is actively licensed in a state~~
 262 ~~that has examination requirements that are substantially~~
 263 ~~equivalent to or more stringent than those of this state, or~~
 264 passes an examination administered by the department, which
 265 examination tests the applicant's competency and knowledge of
 266 the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the
 267 request of any applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points
 268 shall be used in the examination. The examination shall include
 269 a practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to
 270 practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental
 271 medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and
 272 procedures; and

273 Section 5. Section 458.313, Florida Statutes, is amended
 274 to read:

275 458.313 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fees.—

276 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 277 any applicant who, upon applying to the department on forms
 278 furnished by the department and remitting a fee set by the board
 279 not to exceed \$500, the board certifies has met the requirements
 280 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.÷

281 ~~(a) Has met the qualifications for licensure in s.~~
 282 ~~458.311(1)(b)-(g) or in s. 458.311(1)(b)-(c) and (g) and (3);~~

283 ~~(b) Prior to January 1, 2000, has obtained a passing~~
 284 ~~score, as established by rule of the board, on the licensure~~
 285 ~~examination of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the~~
 286 ~~United States, Inc. (FLEX), on the United States Medical~~
 287 ~~Licensing Examination (USMLE), or on the examination of the~~
 288 ~~National Board of Medical Examiners, or on a combination~~
 289 ~~thereof, and on or after January 1, 2000, has obtained a passing~~
 290 ~~score on the United States Medical Licensing Examination~~
 291 ~~(USMLE); and~~

292 ~~(c) Has submitted evidence of the active licensed practice~~
 293 ~~of medicine in another jurisdiction, for at least 2 of the~~
 294 ~~immediately preceding 4 years, or evidence of successful~~
 295 ~~completion of either a board-approved postgraduate training~~
 296 ~~program within 2 years preceding filing of an application or a~~
 297 ~~board-approved clinical competency examination within the year~~
 298 ~~preceding the filing of an application for licensure. For~~
 299 ~~purposes of this paragraph, "active licensed practice of~~
 300 ~~medicine" means that practice of medicine by physicians,~~

301 ~~including those employed by any governmental entity in community~~
302 ~~or public health, as defined by this chapter, medical directors~~
303 ~~under s. 641.495(11) who are practicing medicine, and those on~~
304 ~~the active teaching faculty of an accredited medical school.~~

305 ~~(2) The board may require an applicant for licensure by~~
306 ~~endorsement to take and pass the appropriate licensure~~
307 ~~examination prior to certifying the applicant as eligible for~~
308 ~~licensure.~~

309 ~~(3) The department and the board shall ensure that~~
310 ~~applicants for licensure by endorsement meet applicable criteria~~
311 ~~in this chapter through an investigative process. When the~~
312 ~~investigative process is not completed within the time set out~~
313 ~~in s. 120.60(1) and the department or board has reason to~~
314 ~~believe that the applicant does not meet the criteria, the State~~
315 ~~Surgeon General or the State Surgeon General's designee may~~
316 ~~issue a 90-day licensure delay which shall be in writing and~~
317 ~~sufficient to notify the applicant of the reason for the delay.~~
318 ~~The provisions of this subsection shall control over any~~
319 ~~conflicting provisions of s. 120.60(1).~~

320 ~~(4) The board may promulgate rules and regulations, to be~~
321 ~~applied on a uniform and consistent basis, which may be~~
322 ~~necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.~~

323 ~~(5) Upon certification by the board, the department shall~~
324 ~~impose conditions, limitations, or restrictions on a license by~~
325 ~~endorsement if the applicant is on probation in another~~

326 ~~jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a violation of~~
 327 ~~this chapter.~~

328 ~~(6) The department shall not issue a license by~~
 329 ~~endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in any~~
 330 ~~jurisdiction for an act or offense which would constitute a~~
 331 ~~violation of this chapter until such time as the investigation~~
 332 ~~is complete, at which time the provisions of s. 458.331 shall~~
 333 ~~apply. Furthermore, the department may not issue an unrestricted~~
 334 ~~license to any individual who has committed any act or offense~~
 335 ~~in any jurisdiction which would constitute the basis for~~
 336 ~~disciplining a physician pursuant to s. 458.331. When the board~~
 337 ~~finds that an individual has committed an act or offense in any~~
 338 ~~jurisdiction which would constitute the basis for disciplining a~~
 339 ~~physician pursuant to s. 458.331, the board may enter an order~~
 340 ~~imposing one or more of the terms set forth in subsection (7).~~

341 ~~(7) When the board determines that any applicant for~~
 342 ~~licensure by endorsement has failed to meet, to the board's~~
 343 ~~satisfaction, each of the appropriate requirements set forth in~~
 344 ~~this section, it may enter an order requiring one or more of the~~
 345 ~~following terms:~~

346 ~~(a) Refusal to certify to the department an application~~
 347 ~~for licensure, certification, or registration;~~

348 ~~(b) Certification to the department of an application for~~
 349 ~~licensure, certification, or registration with restrictions on~~
 350 ~~the scope of practice of the licensee; or~~

351 ~~(c) Certification to the department of an application for~~
 352 ~~licensure, certification, or registration with placement of the~~
 353 ~~physician on probation for a period of time and subject to such~~
 354 ~~conditions as the board may specify, including, but not limited~~
 355 ~~to, requiring the physician to submit to treatment, attend~~
 356 ~~continuing education courses, submit to reexamination, or work~~
 357 ~~under the supervision of another physician.~~

358 Section 6. Section 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended
 359 to read:

360 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.—

361 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue the appropriate license by
 362 endorsement to practice professional or practical nursing to an
 363 applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting a
 364 fee set by the board not to exceed \$100, demonstrates to the
 365 board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by
 366 endorsement under s. 456.0145.÷

367 ~~(a) Holds a valid license to practice professional or~~
 368 ~~practical nursing in another state or territory of the United~~
 369 ~~States, provided that, when the applicant secured his or her~~
 370 ~~original license, the requirements for licensure were~~
 371 ~~substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those~~
 372 ~~existing in Florida at that time;~~

373 ~~(b) Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 464.008~~
 374 ~~and has successfully completed a state, regional, or national~~
 375 ~~examination which is substantially equivalent to or more~~

376 ~~stringent than the examination given by the department; or~~
 377 ~~(c) Has actively practiced nursing in another state,~~
 378 ~~jurisdiction, or territory of the United States for 2 of the~~
 379 ~~preceding 3 years without having his or her license acted~~
 380 ~~against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction.~~
 381 ~~Applicants who become licensed pursuant to this paragraph must~~
 382 ~~complete within 6 months after licensure a Florida laws and~~
 383 ~~rules course that is approved by the board. Once the department~~
 384 ~~has received the results of the national criminal history check~~
 385 ~~and has determined that the applicant has no criminal history,~~
 386 ~~the appropriate license by endorsement shall be issued to the~~
 387 ~~applicant.~~

388 ~~(2) Such examinations and requirements from other states~~
 389 ~~and territories of the United States shall be presumed to be~~
 390 ~~substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those in this~~
 391 ~~state. Such presumption shall not arise until January 1, 1980.~~
 392 ~~However, the board may, by rule, specify states and territories~~
 393 ~~the examinations and requirements of which shall not be presumed~~
 394 ~~to be substantially equivalent to those of this state.~~

395 ~~(3) An applicant for licensure by endorsement who is~~
 396 ~~relocating to this state pursuant to his or her military-~~
 397 ~~connected spouse's official military orders and who is licensed~~
 398 ~~in another state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact~~
 399 ~~shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of subsection~~
 400 ~~(1) and shall be issued a license by endorsement upon submission~~

401 ~~of the appropriate application and fees and completion of the~~
402 ~~criminal background check required under subsection (4).~~

403 ~~(4) The applicant must submit to the department a set of~~
404 ~~fingerprints on a form and under procedures specified by the~~
405 ~~department, along with a payment in an amount equal to the costs~~
406 ~~incurred by the Department of Health for the criminal background~~
407 ~~check of the applicant. The Department of Health shall submit~~
408 ~~the fingerprints provided by the applicant to the Florida~~
409 ~~Department of Law Enforcement for a statewide criminal history~~
410 ~~check, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shall~~
411 ~~forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation~~
412 ~~for a national criminal history check of the applicant. The~~
413 ~~Department of Health shall review the results of the criminal~~
414 ~~history check, issue a license to an applicant who has met all~~
415 ~~of the other requirements for licensure and has no criminal~~
416 ~~history, and shall refer all applicants with criminal histories~~
417 ~~back to the board for determination as to whether a license~~
418 ~~should be issued and under what conditions.~~

419 ~~(5) The department shall not issue a license by~~
420 ~~endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in~~
421 ~~another state, jurisdiction, or territory of the United States~~
422 ~~for an act which would constitute a violation of this part or~~
423 ~~chapter 456 until such time as the investigation is complete, at~~
424 ~~which time the provisions of s. 464.018 shall apply.~~

425 ~~(6) The department shall develop an electronic applicant~~

426 ~~notification process and provide electronic notification when~~
427 ~~the application has been received and when background screenings~~
428 ~~have been completed, and shall issue a license within 30 days~~
429 ~~after completion of all required data collection and~~
430 ~~verification. This 30-day period to issue a license shall be~~
431 ~~tolled if the applicant must appear before the board due to~~
432 ~~information provided on the application or obtained through~~
433 ~~screening and data collection and verification procedures.~~

434 ~~(7) A person holding an active multistate license in~~
435 ~~another state pursuant to s. 464.0095 is exempt from the~~
436 ~~requirements for licensure by endorsement in this section.~~

437 Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
438 464.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

439 464.203 Certified nursing assistants; certification
440 requirement.—

441 (1) The board shall issue a certificate to practice as a
442 certified nursing assistant to any person who demonstrates a
443 minimum competency to read and write and successfully passes the
444 required background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. If the
445 person has successfully passed the required background screening
446 pursuant to s. 400.215 or s. 408.809 within 90 days before
447 applying for a certificate to practice and the person's
448 background screening results are not retained in the
449 clearinghouse created under s. 435.12, the board shall waive the
450 requirement that the applicant successfully pass an additional

451 background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. The person must
 452 also meet one of the following requirements:

453 (c) Has been deemed by the board as eligible for licensure
 454 by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~Is currently certified in~~
 455 ~~another state or territory of the United States or in the~~
 456 ~~District of Columbia; is listed on that jurisdiction's certified~~
 457 ~~nursing assistant registry; and has not been found to have~~
 458 ~~committed abuse, neglect, or exploitation in that jurisdiction.~~

459 Section 8. Section 465.0075, Florida Statutes, is amended
 460 to read:

461 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—

462 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 463 any applicant who applies to the department and remits a
 464 nonrefundable fee of not more than \$100, as set by the board,
 465 and whom the board certifies has met the requirements for
 466 licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.÷

467 ~~(a) Has met the qualifications for licensure in s.~~
 468 ~~465.007(1) (b) and (c);~~

469 ~~(b) Has obtained a passing score, as established by rule~~
 470 ~~of the board, on the licensure examination of the National~~
 471 ~~Association of Boards of Pharmacy or a similar nationally~~
 472 ~~recognized examination, if the board certifies that the~~
 473 ~~applicant has taken the required examination;~~

474 ~~(c)1. Has submitted evidence of the active licensed~~
 475 ~~practice of pharmacy, including practice in community or public~~

476 ~~health by persons employed by a governmental entity, in another~~
 477 ~~jurisdiction for at least 2 of the immediately preceding 5 years~~
 478 ~~or evidence of successful completion of board-approved~~
 479 ~~postgraduate training or a board-approved clinical competency~~
 480 ~~examination within the year immediately preceding application~~
 481 ~~for licensure; or~~

482 ~~2. Has completed an internship meeting the requirements of~~
 483 ~~s. 465.007(1)(c) within the 2 years immediately preceding~~
 484 ~~application; and~~

485 ~~(d) Has obtained a passing score on the pharmacy~~
 486 ~~jurisprudence portions of the licensure examination, as required~~
 487 ~~by board rule.~~

488 ~~(2) An applicant licensed in another state for a period in~~
 489 ~~excess of 2 years from the date of application for licensure in~~
 490 ~~this state shall submit a total of at least 30 hours of board-~~
 491 ~~approved continuing education for the 2 calendar years~~
 492 ~~immediately preceding application.~~

493 ~~(3) The department may not issue a license by endorsement~~
 494 ~~to any applicant who is under investigation in any jurisdiction~~
 495 ~~for an act or offense that would constitute a violation of this~~
 496 ~~chapter until the investigation is complete, at which time the~~
 497 ~~provisions of s. 465.016 apply.~~

498 ~~(4) The department may not issue a license by endorsement~~
 499 ~~to any applicant whose license to practice pharmacy has been~~
 500 ~~suspended or revoked in another state or who is currently the~~

501 ~~subject of any disciplinary proceeding in another state.~~

502 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 467.0125, Florida
 503 Statutes, is amended to read:

504 467.0125 Licensed midwives; qualifications; endorsement;
 505 temporary certificates.—

506 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 507 practice midwifery to an applicant who, ~~upon applying to the~~
 508 ~~department,~~ demonstrates to the department that she or he meets
 509 all of the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 510 456.0145 and following criteria:

511 ~~(a) Holds an active, unencumbered license to practice~~
 512 ~~midwifery in another state, jurisdiction, or territory, provided~~
 513 ~~the licensing requirements of that state, jurisdiction, or~~
 514 ~~territory at the time the license was issued were substantially~~
 515 ~~equivalent to or exceeded those established under this chapter~~
 516 ~~and the rules adopted hereunder.~~

517 ~~(b) Has successfully completed a prelicensure course~~
 518 ~~conducted by an accredited and approved midwifery program.~~

519 ~~(c)~~ submits an application for licensure on a form
 520 approved by the department and pays the appropriate fee.

521 Section 10. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 468.1185,
 522 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

523 468.1185 Licensure.—

524 ~~(3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by~~
 525 ~~endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist an~~

526 ~~applicant who:~~

527 ~~(a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state~~
 528 ~~or territory of the United States to practice the profession for~~
 529 ~~which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for~~
 530 ~~issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or~~
 531 ~~more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this~~
 532 ~~state at the time the license was issued; or~~

533 ~~(b) Holds a valid certificate of clinical competence of~~
 534 ~~the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association or board~~
 535 ~~certification in audiology from the American Board of Audiology.~~

536 ~~(4) The board may refuse to certify any applicant who is~~
 537 ~~under investigation in any jurisdiction for an act which would~~
 538 ~~constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until the~~
 539 ~~investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been~~
 540 ~~terminated.~~

541 Section 11. Subsection (4) of section 468.1705, Florida
 542 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (3), and present
 543 subsections (1), (2), and (3) of that section are amended to
 544 read:

545 468.1705 Licensure by endorsement; temporary license.—

546 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 547 any applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting
 548 a fee set by the board not to exceed \$500, demonstrates to the
 549 board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by
 550 endorsement under s. 456.0145.÷

551 ~~(a) Meets one of the following requirements:~~

552 ~~1. Holds a valid active license to practice nursing home~~

553 ~~administration in another state of the United States, provided~~

554 ~~that the current requirements for licensure in that state are~~

555 ~~substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, current~~

556 ~~requirements in this state; or~~

557 ~~2. Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 468.1695;~~

558 ~~and~~

559 ~~(b)1. Has successfully completed a national examination~~

560 ~~which is substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than,~~

561 ~~the examination given by the department;~~

562 ~~2. Has passed an examination on the laws and rules of this~~

563 ~~state governing the administration of nursing homes; and~~

564 ~~3. Has worked as a fully licensed nursing home~~

565 ~~administrator for 2 years within the 5-year period immediately~~

566 ~~preceding the application by endorsement.~~

567 ~~(2) National examinations for licensure as a nursing home~~

568 ~~administrator shall be presumed to be substantially equivalent~~

569 ~~to, or more stringent than, the examination and requirements in~~

570 ~~this state, unless found otherwise by rule of the board.~~

571 ~~(2)-(3) The department may ~~shall~~ not issue a license by~~

572 ~~endorsement or a temporary license to any applicant who is under~~

573 ~~investigation in this or another state for any act which would~~

574 ~~constitute a violation of this part until such time as the~~

575 ~~investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been~~

576 terminated.

577 Section 12. Section 468.213, Florida Statutes, is
 578 repealed.

579 Section 13. Section 468.513, Florida Statutes, is amended
 580 to read:

581 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—

582 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue a license to practice
 583 dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who
 584 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 585 456.0145 ~~the board certifies as qualified,~~ upon receipt of a
 586 completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.

587 ~~(2) The board shall certify as qualified for licensure by~~
 588 ~~endorsement under this section any applicant who:~~

589 ~~(a) Presents evidence satisfactory to the board that he or~~
 590 ~~she is a registered dietitian; or~~

591 ~~(b) Holds a valid license to practice dietetics or~~
 592 ~~nutrition issued by another state, district, or territory of the~~
 593 ~~United States, if the criteria for issuance of such license are~~
 594 ~~determined by the board to be substantially equivalent to or~~
 595 ~~more stringent than those of this state.~~

596 ~~(3) The department shall not issue a license by~~
 597 ~~endorsement under this section to any applicant who is under~~
 598 ~~investigation in any jurisdiction for any act which would~~
 599 ~~constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until such~~
 600 ~~time as the investigation is complete and disciplinary~~

601 ~~proceedings have been terminated.~~

602 Section 14. Section 478.47, Florida Statutes, is amended
603 to read:

604 478.47 Licensure by endorsement.—The department shall
605 issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon
606 submitting ~~submits~~ an application and the required fees as set
607 forth in s. 478.55, demonstrates to the board that he or she
608 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
609 456.0145 and who holds an active license or other authority to
610 ~~practice electrology in a jurisdiction whose licensure~~
611 ~~requirements are determined by the board to be equivalent to the~~
612 ~~requirements for licensure in this state.~~

613 Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section
614 480.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

615 480.041 Massage therapists; qualifications; licensure;
616 endorsement.—

617 (5) The board shall adopt rules:

618 (c) Specifying licensing procedures for practitioners
619 desiring to be licensed in this state who meet the requirements
620 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 or hold an active
621 license and have practiced in ~~any other state, territory, or~~
622 ~~jurisdiction of the United States or any foreign national~~
623 jurisdiction which has licensing standards substantially similar
624 to, equivalent to, or more stringent than the standards of this
625 state.

626 Section 16. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 484.007,
 627 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsection (4) and (5),
 628 respectively, subsection (1) is amended, and a new subsection
 629 (3) is added to that section, to read:

630 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical
 631 establishments.—

632 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply
 633 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a
 634 licensure examination. The department shall examine each
 635 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following
 636 criteria:

637 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a
 638 nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of
 639 \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the
 640 amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the
 641 department for purchase of portions of the examination from the
 642 American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization,
 643 or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant
 644 ineligible to take the examination.†

645 (b) Is not younger ~~less~~ than 18 years of age.†

646 (c) Is a graduate of an accredited high school or
 647 possesses a certificate of equivalency of a high school
 648 education.†~~and~~

649 (d)1. Has received an associate degree, or its equivalent,
 650 in opticianry from an educational institution the curriculum of

651 which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and
 652 approved by the United States Department of Education or the
 653 Council on Postsecondary Education or approved by the board; or
 654 ~~2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of~~
 655 ~~opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another~~
 656 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has~~
 657 ~~actively practiced in such other state, territory, or~~
 658 ~~jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding~~
 659 ~~application, and who meets the examination qualifications as~~
 660 ~~provided in this subsection;~~
 661 ~~3. Is an individual who has actively practiced in another~~
 662 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for more~~
 663 ~~than 5 years immediately preceding application and who provides~~
 664 ~~tax or business records, affidavits, or other satisfactory~~
 665 ~~documentation of such practice and who meets the examination~~
 666 ~~qualifications as provided in this subsection; or~~
 667 2.4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department
 668 and paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of
 669 the board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training
 670 under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for
 671 at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under
 672 the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5
 673 years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in
 674 a recognized school may be considered as part of the
 675 apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish

676 administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of
 677 administering apprentice rules as promulgated by the board.

678 (3) The board shall certify to the department for
 679 licensure by endorsement any applicant who meets the
 680 requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

681 Section 17. Section 486.081, Florida Statutes, is amended
 682 to read:

683 486.081 Physical therapist; license by endorsement
 684 ~~issuance of license without examination to person passing~~
 685 ~~examination of another authorized examining board; fee.-~~

686 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be
 687 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any
 688 applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the board of
 689 meeting the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 690 456.0145 ~~having passed the American Registry Examination prior~~
 691 ~~to 1971 or an examination in physical therapy before a similar~~
 692 ~~lawfully authorized examining board of another state, the~~
 693 ~~District of Columbia, a territory, or a foreign country, if the~~
 694 ~~standards for licensure in physical therapy in such other state,~~
 695 ~~district, territory, or foreign country are determined by the~~
 696 ~~board to be as high as those of this state, as established by~~
 697 ~~rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.~~ Any person who holds a
 698 license pursuant to this section may use the words "physical
 699 therapist" or "physiotherapist" or the letters "P.T." in
 700 connection with her or his name or place of business to denote

701 her or his licensure hereunder. A person who holds a license
 702 pursuant to this section and obtains a doctoral degree in
 703 physical therapy may use the letters "D.P.T." and "P.T." A
 704 physical therapist who holds a degree of Doctor of Physical
 705 Therapy may not use the title "doctor" without also clearly
 706 informing the public of his or her profession as a physical
 707 therapist.

708 (2) At the time of making application for licensure by
 709 endorsement under ~~without examination pursuant to the terms of~~
 710 this section, the applicant shall pay to the department a fee
 711 not to exceed \$175 as fixed by the board, no part of which will
 712 be returned.

713 Section 18. Section 486.107, Florida Statutes, is amended
 714 to read:

715 486.107 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of license
 716 by endorsement ~~without examination to person licensed in another~~
 717 ~~jurisdiction; fee.—~~

718 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be
 719 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any
 720 applicant who presents evidence to the board, under oath, of
 721 meeting the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 722 456.0145 licensure in another state, the District of Columbia,
 723 ~~or a territory, if the standards for registering as a physical~~
 724 ~~therapist assistant or licensing of a physical therapist~~
 725 ~~assistant, as the case may be, in such other state are~~

726 ~~determined by the board to be as high as those of this state, as~~
727 ~~established by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. Any~~
728 person who holds a license pursuant to this section may use the
729 words "physical therapist assistant," or the letters "P.T.A.,"
730 in connection with her or his name to denote licensure
731 hereunder.

732 (2) At the time of making application for licensure by
733 endorsement under licensing without examination pursuant to the
734 ~~terms of this section~~, the applicant shall pay to the department
735 a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed
736 \$175 ~~as fixed by the board, no part of which will be returned.~~

737 Section 19. Subsection (4) of section 490.006, Florida
738 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (2), and present
739 subsections (1), (2), and (3) of that section are amended to
740 read:

741 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

742 (1) The department shall license a person as a
743 psychologist or school psychologist who, upon applying to the
744 department and remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to
745 the department or, in the case of psychologists, to the board
746 that the applicant meets the requirements for licensure by
747 endorsement under s. 456.0145.÷

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

750 ~~(b) Possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has at~~

751 ~~least 10 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any~~
752 ~~jurisdiction or territory of the United States within the 25~~
753 ~~years preceding the date of application.~~

754 ~~(2) In addition to meeting the requirements for licensure~~
755 ~~set forth in subsection (1), an applicant must pass that portion~~
756 ~~of the psychology or school psychology licensure examinations~~
757 ~~pertaining to the laws and rules related to the practice of~~
758 ~~psychology or school psychology in this state before the~~
759 ~~department may issue a license to the applicant.~~

760 ~~(3) The department shall not issue a license by~~
761 ~~endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in this~~
762 ~~or another jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a~~
763 ~~violation of this chapter until such time as the investigation~~
764 ~~is complete, at which time the provisions of s. 490.009 shall~~
765 ~~apply.~~

766 Section 20. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 491.006,
767 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

768 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

769 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to
770 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon
771 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,
772 demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the requirements
773 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.÷

774 ~~(a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of~~
775 ~~the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the~~

776 ~~practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,~~
777 ~~and mental health counseling.~~

778 ~~(b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has~~
779 ~~actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for~~
780 ~~3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;~~

781 ~~2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing~~
782 ~~examination in another state or has passed the licensure~~
783 ~~examination in this state in the profession for which the~~
784 ~~applicant seeks licensure; and~~

785 ~~3. Holds a license in good standing, is not under~~
786 ~~investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of~~
787 ~~this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act~~
788 ~~that would constitute a violation of this chapter.~~

789 (2) The fees paid by any applicant for certification as a
790 master social worker under this section are nonrefundable.

791 ~~(2) The department shall not issue a license or~~
792 ~~certificate by endorsement to any applicant who is under~~
793 ~~investigation in this or another jurisdiction for an act which~~
794 ~~would constitute a violation of this chapter until such time as~~
795 ~~the investigation is complete, at which time the provisions of~~
796 ~~s. 491.009 shall apply.~~

797 Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 468.209, Florida
798 Statutes, is amended to read:

799 468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

800 (3) If the board determines that an applicant is qualified

801 to be licensed by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~s. 468.213~~, the
802 board may issue the applicant a temporary permit to practice
803 occupational therapy until the next board meeting at which
804 license applications are to be considered, but not for a longer
805 period of time. Only one temporary permit by endorsement shall
806 be issued to an applicant, and it shall not be renewable.

807 Section 22. Subsection (3) of section 486.031, Florida
808 Statutes, is amended to read:

809 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be
810 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant
811 must:

812 (3)(a) Have been graduated from a school of physical
813 therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation
814 of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency
815 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary
816 Accreditation or the United States Department of Education at
817 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the
818 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination
819 prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to
820 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
821 therapist as hereinafter provided;

822 (b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical
823 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials
824 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational
825 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as

826 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,
 827 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination
 828 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 829 therapist as hereinafter provided; or

830 (c) Be entitled to licensure by endorsement or without
 831 examination as provided in s. 486.081.

832 Section 23. Subsection (3) of section 486.102, Florida
 833 Statutes, is amended to read:

834 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing
 835 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a
 836 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must:

837 (3)(a) Have been graduated from a school giving a course
 838 of not less than 2 years for physical therapist assistants,
 839 which has been approved for the educational preparation of
 840 physical therapist assistants by the appropriate accrediting
 841 agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition of
 842 Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States Department of
 843 Education, at the time of her or his graduation and have passed
 844 to the satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her
 845 or his fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant as
 846 hereinafter provided;

847 (b) Have been graduated from a school giving a course for
 848 physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have
 849 educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for
 850 the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in

851 | this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as
 852 | identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the
 853 | board an examination to determine her or his fitness for
 854 | practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter
 855 | provided;

856 | (c) Be entitled to licensure by endorsement ~~without~~
 857 | ~~examination~~ as provided in s. 486.107; or

858 | (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,
 859 | 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state
 860 | which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

861 | 1. Have been graduated or be eligible to graduate from
 862 | such school no later than July 1, 2018; and

863 | 2. Have passed to the satisfaction of the board an
 864 | examination to determine his or her fitness for practice as a
 865 | physical therapist assistant as provided in s. 486.104.

866 | Section 24. Notwithstanding the changes made to the
 867 | Florida Statutes (2023) by this act, a board as defined in s.
 868 | 456.001, Florida Statutes, or the Department of Health, as
 869 | applicable, may continue processing applications for licensure
 870 | by endorsement as authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023)
 871 | until the rules adopted by such board or the department to
 872 | implement the changes made by this act take effect or until 6
 873 | months after the effective date of this act, whichever occurs
 874 | first.

875 | Section 25. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.