

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

26 requiring the department to verify certain information
 27 using the National Practitioner Data Bank, as
 28 applicable; specifying circumstances under which a
 29 person is ineligible for a license; authorizing boards
 30 or the department, as applicable, to revoke a license
 31 upon a specified finding; requiring boards or the
 32 department, as applicable, to issue licenses within a
 33 specified timeframe; authorizing boards or the
 34 department, as applicable, to require that applicants
 35 successfully complete a jurisprudential examination
 36 under certain circumstances; requiring the department
 37 to submit an annual report to the Governor and the
 38 Legislature by a specified date; providing
 39 requirements for the report; requiring the boards and
 40 the department, as applicable, to adopt certain rules
 41 within a specified timeframe; amending ss. 457.105,
 42 458.313, 464.009, 465.0075, 467.0125, 468.1185,
 43 468.1705, 468.213, 468.3065, 468.358, 468.513, 478.47,
 44 480.041, 484.007, 486.081, 486.107, 490.006, and
 45 491.006, F.S.; revising licensure by endorsement
 46 requirements for the practice of acupuncture,
 47 medicine, professional or practical nursing, pharmacy,
 48 midwifery, speech-language pathology and audiology,
 49 nursing home administration, occupational therapy,
 50 radiology, respiratory therapy, dietetics and

51 nutrition, electrology, massage therapy, opticianry,
 52 physical therapy, physical therapist assistantship,
 53 psychology and school psychology, and clinical social
 54 work, marriage and family therapy, and mental health
 55 counseling, respectively; amending ss. 486.031 and
 56 486.102, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
 57 by the act; authorizing the boards and the Department
 58 of Health, as applicable, to continue processing
 59 applications for licensure by endorsement, as
 60 authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023), for a
 61 specified timeframe; providing an effective date.

62

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

64

65 Section 1. Section 455.2135, Florida Statutes, is created
 66 to read:

67 455.2135 Interstate mobility.—

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

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

76 (b) Submits an application either when the license in
 77 another state or territory is active or within 2 years after
 78 such license was last active;

79 (c) Has passed the recognized national licensing exam, if
 80 such exam is established as a requirement for licensure in the
 81 profession;

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

84 (e) Shows proof of compliance with any federal regulation,
 85 training, or certification, if the applicant's profession
 86 requires such proof, regarding licensure in the profession;

87 (f) Completes Florida-specific continuing education
 88 courses or passes a jurisprudential examination specific to the
 89 state laws and rules for the applicable profession as
 90 established by the board or department; and

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

93 (2) If the applicant's profession requires, the applicant
 94 must submit a complete set of fingerprints to the Department of
 95 Law Enforcement for a statewide criminal history check. The
 96 Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to
 97 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal
 98 history check. The department shall, and the board may, review
 99 the results of the criminal history checks according to the
 100 level 2 screening standards in s. 435.04 and determine whether

101 the applicant meets the licensure requirements. The costs of
 102 fingerprint processing are borne by the applicant. If the
 103 applicant's fingerprints are submitted through an authorized
 104 agency or vendor, the agency or vendor must collect the required
 105 processing fees and remit the fees to the Department of Law
 106 Enforcement.

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

109 Section 2. Section 456.0145, Florida Statutes, is created
 110 to read:

111 456.0145 Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure
 112 Endorsement (MOBILE) Act.—

113 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Mobile
 114 Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement Act" or the
 115 "MOBILE Act."

116 (2) LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT.—

117 (a) An applicable board, or the department if there is no
 118 board, shall issue a license or certificate to practice in this
 119 state to an applicant who meets all of the following criteria:

120 1. Submits a completed application.

121 2. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another
 122 state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of
 123 the United States in a profession with a similar scope of
 124 practice, as determined by the board or department, as
 125 applicable. As used in this subparagraph, the term "scope of

126 practice" means the full spectrum of functions, procedures,
127 actions, and services that a health care practitioner is deemed
128 competent and authorized to perform under a license issued in
129 this state.

130 3.a. Has obtained a passing score on a national licensure
131 examination or holds a national certification recognized by the
132 board, or the department if there is no board, as applicable to
133 the profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure in
134 this state; or

135 b. Meets the requirements of paragraph (b).

136 4. Has actively practiced the profession for which the
137 applicant is applying for at least 3 years during the 4-year
138 period immediately preceding the date of submission of the
139 application.

140 5. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of
141 submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary
142 proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license
143 or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons
144 related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is
145 applying.

146 6. Has not had professional disciplinary action taken
147 against him or her in the 7 years immediately preceding the date
148 of submission of the application.

149 7. Meets the financial responsibility requirements of s.
150 456.048 or the applicable practice act, if required for the

151 profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure.

152 8. Submits a set of fingerprints for a background check
153 pursuant to s. 456.0135 or the applicable practice act, if
154 required for the profession for which he or she is applying.

155
156 The department shall verify information submitted by the
157 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner
158 Data Bank, as applicable.

159 (b) An applicant for a profession that does not require a
160 national examination or national certification is eligible for
161 licensure if an applicable board, or the department if there is
162 no board, determines that the jurisdiction in which the
163 applicant currently holds an active, unencumbered license meets
164 established minimum education requirements and, if applicable,
165 examination, work experience, and clinical supervision
166 requirements that are substantially similar to the requirements
167 for licensure in that profession in this state.

168 (c) A person is ineligible for a license under this
169 section if the applicant:

170 1. Has a complaint, an allegation, or an investigation
171 pending before a licensing entity in another state, the District
172 of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States;

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

176 3. Has had a health care provider license revoked or
177 suspended by another state, the District of Columbia, or a
178 possession or territory of the United States, or has voluntarily
179 surrendered any such license;

180 4. Has been reported to the National Practitioner Data
181 Bank, unless the applicant has successfully appealed to have his
182 or her name removed from the data bank; or

183 5. Has previously failed the Florida examination required
184 to receive a license to practice the profession for which the
185 applicant is seeking a license.

186 (d) The board, or the department if there is no board, may
187 revoke a license upon finding that the licensee provided false
188 or misleading material information or intentionally omitted
189 material information in an application for licensure.

190 (e) The board, or the department if there is no board,
191 shall issue a license within 15 days after receipt of all
192 documentation required for an application.

193 (3) STATE EXAMINATION.—The board, or the department if
194 there is no board, may require an applicant to successfully
195 complete a jurisprudential examination specific to state laws
196 and rules for the applicable profession, if this chapter or the
197 applicable practice act requires such examination.

198 (4) ANNUAL REPORT.—By December 31 of each year, the
199 department shall submit a report to the Governor, the President
200 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives

201 which provides all of the following information for the previous
 202 fiscal year, per profession and in total:

203 (a) The number of applications for licensure received
 204 under this section.

205 (b) The number of licenses issued under this section.

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

208 (5) RULES.—Each applicable board, or the department if
 209 there is no board, shall adopt rules to implement this section
 210 within 6 months after this section's effective date, including
 211 rules relating to legislative intent under s. 456.025(1) and the
 212 requirements of s. 456.025(3).

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

215 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

216 (2) A person may become licensed to practice acupuncture
 217 if the person applies to the department and meets all of the
 218 following criteria:

219 (a) Is 21 years of age or older, has good moral character,
 220 and has the ability to communicate in English, which is
 221 demonstrated by having passed the national written examination
 222 in English or, if such examination was passed in a foreign
 223 language, by also having passed a nationally recognized English
 224 proficiency examination.†

225 (b) Has completed 60 college credits from an accredited

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226 postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrollment in an
227 authorized 3-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental
228 medicine, and has completed a 3-year course of study in
229 acupuncture and oriental medicine, and effective July 31, 2001,
230 a 4-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental medicine,
231 which meets standards established by the board by rule, which
232 standards include, but are not limited to, successful completion
233 of academic courses in western anatomy, western physiology,
234 western pathology, western biomedical terminology, first aid,
235 and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). However, any person who
236 enrolled in an authorized course of study in acupuncture before
237 August 1, 1997, must have completed only a 2-year course of
238 study which meets standards established by the board by rule,
239 which standards must include, but are not limited to, successful
240 completion of academic courses in western anatomy, western
241 physiology, and western pathology.†

242 (c) Has successfully completed a board-approved national
243 certification process, meets the requirements for licensure by
244 endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~is actively licensed in a state~~
245 ~~that has examination requirements that are substantially~~
246 ~~equivalent to or more stringent than those of this state, or~~
247 passes an examination administered by the department, which
248 examination tests the applicant's competency and knowledge of
249 the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the
250 request of any applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points

251 shall be used in the examination. The examination shall include
 252 a practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to
 253 practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental
 254 medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and
 255 procedures. ~~and~~

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

258 1. Examination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant
 259 cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical
 260 portions of the examination from a national organization
 261 approved by the board.

262 2. Application fee: \$300.

263 3. Reexamination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant
 264 cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical
 265 portions of the examination from a national organization
 266 approved by the board.

267 4. Initial biennial licensure fee: \$400, if licensed in
 268 the first half of the biennium, and \$200, if licensed in the
 269 second half of the biennium.

270 Section 4. Section 458.313, Florida Statutes, is amended
 271 to read:

272 (Substantial rewording of section. See
 273 s. 458.313, F.S., for present text.)

274 458.313 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fees.—The
 275 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant

276 who, upon applying to the department on forms furnished by the
 277 department and remitting a fee set by the board in an amount not
 278 to exceed \$500, the board certifies has met the requirements for
 279 licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

280 Section 5. Section 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended
 281 to read:

282 (Substantial rewording of section. See
 283 s. 464.009, F.S., for present text.)

284 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.—

285 (1) The department shall issue the appropriate license by
 286 endorsement to practice professional or practical nursing to any
 287 applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting a
 288 fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed \$100,
 289 demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the requirements
 290 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

291 (2) A person holding an active multistate license in
 292 another state pursuant to s. 464.0095 is exempt from the
 293 requirements for licensure by endorsement in this section.

294 Section 6. Section 465.0075, Florida Statutes, is amended
 295 to read:

296 (Substantial rewording of section. See
 297 s. 465.0075, F.S., for present text.)

298 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—The
 299 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant
 300 who, upon applying to the department and remitting a

301 nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed
 302 \$100, the board certifies has met the requirements for licensure
 303 by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

304 Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 467.0125, Florida
 305 Statutes, is amended to read:

306 467.0125 Licensed midwives; qualifications; endorsement;
 307 temporary certificates.—

308 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 309 practice midwifery to an applicant who, upon applying to the
 310 department on a form approved by the department and remitting
 311 the appropriate fee, demonstrates to the department that she or
 312 he meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 313 456.0145 ~~all of the following criteria:~~

314 ~~(a) Holds an active, unencumbered license to practice~~
 315 ~~midwifery in another state, jurisdiction, or territory, provided~~
 316 ~~the licensing requirements of that state, jurisdiction, or~~
 317 ~~territory at the time the license was issued were substantially~~
 318 ~~equivalent to or exceeded those established under this chapter~~
 319 ~~and the rules adopted hereunder.~~

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

322 ~~(c) Submits an application for licensure on a form~~
 323 ~~approved by the department and pays the appropriate fee.~~

324 Section 8. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 468.1185,
 325 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

326 468.1185 Licensure.—

327 ~~(3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by~~
 328 ~~endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist an~~
 329 ~~applicant who:~~

330 ~~(a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state~~
 331 ~~or territory of the United States to practice the profession for~~
 332 ~~which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for~~
 333 ~~issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or~~
 334 ~~more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this~~
 335 ~~state at the time the license was issued; or~~

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

339 (3)(4) The board may refuse to certify any person applying
 340 for licensure under this section ~~applicant~~ who is under
 341 investigation in any jurisdiction for an act which would
 342 constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until the
 343 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been
 344 terminated.

345 Section 9. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section
 346 468.1705, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

347 468.1705 Licensure by endorsement; temporary license.—

348 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 349 any applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting
 350 a fee set by the board not to exceed \$500, demonstrates to the

351 board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by
 352 endorsement under s. 456.0145;

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

354 ~~1. Holds a valid active license to practice nursing home~~
 355 ~~administration in another state of the United States, provided~~
 356 ~~that the current requirements for licensure in that state are~~
 357 ~~substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, current~~
 358 ~~requirements in this state; or~~

359 ~~2. Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 468.1695;~~
 360 ~~and~~

361 ~~(b)1. Has successfully completed a national examination~~
 362 ~~which is substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than,~~
 363 ~~the examination given by the department;~~

364 ~~2. Has passed an examination on the laws and rules of this~~
 365 ~~state governing the administration of nursing homes; and~~

366 ~~3. Has worked as a fully licensed nursing home~~
 367 ~~administrator for 2 years within the 5-year period immediately~~
 368 ~~preceding the application by endorsement.~~

369 ~~(2) National examinations for licensure as a nursing home~~
 370 ~~administrator shall be presumed to be substantially equivalent~~
 371 ~~to, or more stringent than, the examination and requirements in~~
 372 ~~this state, unless found otherwise by rule of the board.~~

373 (2) ~~(3)~~ The department may ~~shall~~ not issue a ~~license by~~
 374 ~~endorsement or~~ a temporary license to any applicant who is under
 375 investigation in this or another state for any act which would

376 constitute a violation of this part until such time as the
 377 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been
 378 terminated.

379 Section 10. Section 468.213, Florida Statutes, is amended
 380 to read:

381 468.213 Licensure by endorsement; waiver of examination
 382 requirement.—

383 (1) The board may ~~waive the examination and~~ grant a
 384 license to any person who meets the requirements for licensure
 385 by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~presents proof of current~~
 386 ~~certification as an occupational therapist or occupational~~
 387 ~~therapy assistant by a national certifying organization if the~~
 388 ~~board determines the requirements for such certification to be~~
 389 ~~equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this act.~~

390 (2) The board may waive the examination and grant a
 391 license to any applicant who presents proof of current licensure
 392 as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant
 393 in a another state, the District of Columbia, or any territory
 394 ~~or jurisdiction of the United States or~~ foreign national
 395 jurisdiction which requires standards for licensure determined
 396 by the board to be equivalent to the requirements for licensure
 397 in this part ~~act.~~

398 Section 11. Section 468.3065, Florida Statutes, is amended
 399 to read:

400 468.3065 Certification by endorsement.—

401 (1) The department may issue a certificate by endorsement
402 to practice as a radiologist assistant to an applicant who, upon
403 applying to the department and remitting a nonrefundable fee not
404 to exceed \$50, demonstrates to the department that he or she
405 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
406 456.0145 ~~holds a current certificate or registration as a~~
407 ~~radiologist assistant granted by the American Registry of~~
408 ~~Radiologic Technologists.~~

409 (2) The department may issue a certificate by endorsement
410 to practice radiologic technology to an applicant who, upon
411 applying to the department and remitting a nonrefundable fee not
412 to exceed \$50, demonstrates to the department that he or she
413 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
414 456.0145 ~~holds a current certificate, license, or registration~~
415 ~~to practice radiologic technology, provided that the~~
416 ~~requirements for such certificate, license, or registration are~~
417 ~~deemed by the department to be substantially equivalent to those~~
418 ~~established under this part and rules adopted under this part.~~

419 (3) The department may issue a certificate by endorsement
420 to practice as a specialty technologist to an applicant who,
421 upon applying to the department and remitting a nonrefundable
422 fee not to exceed \$100, demonstrates to the department that he
423 or she meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under
424 s. 456.0145 ~~holds a current certificate or registration from a~~
425 ~~national organization in a particular advanced, postprimary, or~~

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426 ~~specialty area of radiologic technology, such as computed~~
427 ~~tomography or positron emission tomography.~~

428 Section 12. Section 468.358, Florida Statutes, is amended
429 to read:

430 468.358 Licensure by endorsement.—

431 (1) Licensure as a certified respiratory therapist must
432 ~~shall~~ be granted by endorsement to an individual who meets the
433 requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145
434 ~~holds the "Certified Respiratory Therapist" credential issued by~~
435 ~~the National Board for Respiratory Care or an equivalent~~
436 ~~credential acceptable to the board. Licensure by this mechanism~~
437 ~~requires verification by oath and submission of evidence~~
438 ~~satisfactory to the board that such credential is held.~~

439 ~~(2) Licensure as a registered respiratory therapist shall~~
440 ~~be granted by endorsement to an individual who holds the~~
441 ~~"Registered Respiratory Therapist" credential issued by the~~
442 ~~National Board for Respiratory Care or an equivalent credential~~
443 ~~acceptable to the board. Licensure by this mechanism requires~~
444 ~~verification by oath and submission of evidence satisfactory to~~
445 ~~the board that such credential is held.~~

446 (2)-(3) An individual who has been granted licensure,
447 certification, registration, or other authority, by whatever
448 name known, to deliver respiratory care services in a foreign
449 ~~another state or~~ country may petition the board for
450 consideration for licensure in this state and, upon verification

451 by oath and submission of evidence of licensure, certification,
 452 registration, or other authority acceptable to the board, may be
 453 granted licensure by endorsement.

454 (3)~~(4)~~ Licensure may ~~shall~~ not be granted by endorsement
 455 as provided in this section without the submission of a proper
 456 application and the payment of the requisite fees therefor.

457 Section 13. Section 468.513, Florida Statutes, is amended
 458 to read:

459 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—

460 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue a license to practice
 461 dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who
 462 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 463 456.0145 ~~the board certifies as qualified~~, upon receipt of a
 464 completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.

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

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

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

474 ~~(3)~~ ~~The department shall not issue a license by~~
 475 ~~endorsement under this section to any applicant who is under~~

476 ~~investigation in any jurisdiction for any act which would~~
 477 ~~constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until such~~
 478 ~~time as the investigation is complete and disciplinary~~
 479 ~~proceedings have been terminated.~~

480 Section 14. Section 478.47, Florida Statutes, is amended
 481 to read:

482 478.47 Licensure by endorsement.—The department shall
 483 issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon
 484 submitting ~~submits~~ an application and the required fees as set
 485 forth in s. 478.55, demonstrates to the board that he or she
 486 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 487 456.0145 ~~and who holds an active license or other authority to~~
 488 ~~practice electrology in a jurisdiction whose licensure~~
 489 ~~requirements are determined by the board to be equivalent to the~~
 490 ~~requirements for licensure in this state.~~

491 Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section
 492 480.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

493 480.041 Massage therapists; qualifications; licensure;
 494 endorsement.—

495 (5) The board shall adopt rules:

496 (c) Specifying licensing procedures for practitioners
 497 desiring to be licensed in this state who meet the requirements
 498 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 or hold an active
 499 license and have practiced in ~~any other state, territory, or~~
 500 ~~jurisdiction of the United States~~ or any foreign national

501 jurisdiction which has licensing standards substantially similar
 502 to, equivalent to, or more stringent than the standards of this
 503 state.

504 Section 16. Present subsections (3) and (4) of section
 505 484.007, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)
 506 and (5), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that
 507 section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to read:

508 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical
 509 establishments.—

510 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply
 511 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a
 512 licensure examination. The department shall examine each
 513 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following
 514 criteria:

515 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a
 516 nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of
 517 \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the
 518 amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the
 519 department for purchase of portions of the examination from the
 520 American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization,
 521 or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant
 522 ineligible to take the examination.†

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

524 (c) Is a graduate of an accredited high school or
 525 possesses a certificate of equivalency of a high school

526 education. ~~;~~ and

527 (d)1. Has received an associate degree, or its equivalent,
528 in opticianry from an educational institution the curriculum of
529 which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and
530 approved by the United States Department of Education or the
531 Council on Postsecondary Education or approved by the board;

532 ~~2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of~~
533 ~~opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another~~
534 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has~~
535 ~~actively practiced in such other state, territory, or~~
536 ~~jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding~~
537 ~~application, and who meets the examination qualifications as~~
538 ~~provided in this subsection;~~

539 ~~3. Is an individual who has actively practiced in another~~
540 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for more~~
541 ~~than 5 years immediately preceding application and who provides~~
542 ~~tax or business records, affidavits, or other satisfactory~~
543 ~~documentation of such practice and who meets the examination~~
544 ~~qualifications as provided in this subsection; or~~

545 2.4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department
546 and paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of
547 the board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training
548 under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for
549 at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under
550 the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5

551 | years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in
 552 | a recognized school may be considered as part of the
 553 | apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish
 554 | administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of
 555 | administering apprentice rules as promulgated by the board.

556 | (3) The board shall certify to the department for
 557 | licensure by endorsement any applicant who meets the
 558 | requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

559 | Section 17. Section 486.081, Florida Statutes, is amended
 560 | to read:

561 | 486.081 Physical therapist; issuance of license by
 562 | endorsement; issuance of license without examination to person
 563 | passing examination of another authorized examining board in a
 564 | foreign country; fee.—

565 | (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be
 566 | issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any
 567 | applicant who meets the requirements for licensure by
 568 | endorsement under s. 456.0145 or, without examination, to any
 569 | applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the board of
 570 | having passed ~~the American Registry Examination prior to 1971 or~~
 571 | an examination in physical therapy before a similar lawfully
 572 | authorized examining board of ~~another state, the District of~~
 573 | ~~Columbia, a territory, or~~ a foreign country, if the standards
 574 | for licensure in physical therapy in such ~~other state, district,~~
 575 | ~~territory, or~~ foreign country are determined by the board to be

576 as high as those of this state, as established by rules adopted
577 pursuant to this chapter. Any person who holds a license
578 pursuant to this section may use the words "physical therapist"
579 or "physiotherapist" or the letters "P.T." in connection with
580 her or his name or place of business to denote her or his
581 licensure hereunder. A person who holds a license pursuant to
582 this section and obtains a doctoral degree in physical therapy
583 may use the letters "D.P.T." and "P.T." A physical therapist who
584 holds a degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy may not use the
585 title "doctor" without also clearly informing the public of his
586 or her profession as a physical therapist.

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

592 Section 18. Section 486.107, Florida Statutes, is amended
593 to read:

594 486.107 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of license
595 by endorsement ~~without examination to person licensed in another~~
596 ~~jurisdiction; fee.-~~

597 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be
598 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any
599 applicant who presents evidence to the board, under oath, of
600 meeting the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.

601 ~~456.0145 licensure in another state, the District of Columbia,~~
 602 ~~or a territory, if the standards for registering as a physical~~
 603 ~~therapist assistant or licensing of a physical therapist~~
 604 ~~assistant, as the case may be, in such other state are~~
 605 ~~determined by the board to be as high as those of this state, as~~
 606 ~~established by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. Any~~
 607 ~~person who holds a license pursuant to this section may use the~~
 608 ~~words "physical therapist assistant," or the letters "P.T.A.,"~~
 609 ~~in connection with her or his name to denote licensure~~
 610 ~~hereunder.~~

611 (2) At the time of making application for licensure by
 612 endorsement under ~~licensing without examination pursuant to the~~
 613 ~~terms of~~ this section, the applicant shall pay to the department
 614 a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed
 615 \$175 ~~as fixed by the board, no part of which will be returned.~~

616 Section 19. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section
 617 490.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

618 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

619 (1) The department shall license a person as a
 620 psychologist or school psychologist who, upon applying to the
 621 department and remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to
 622 the department or, in the case of psychologists, to the board
 623 that the applicant meets the requirements for licensure by
 624 endorsement under s. 456.0145;

625 ~~(a) Is a diplomate in good standing with the American~~

626 ~~Board of Professional Psychology, Inc.; or~~

627 ~~(b) Possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has at~~
628 ~~least 10 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any~~
629 ~~jurisdiction or territory of the United States within the 25~~
630 ~~years preceding the date of application.~~

631 ~~(2) In addition to meeting the requirements for licensure~~
632 ~~set forth in subsection (1), an applicant must pass that portion~~
633 ~~of the psychology or school psychology licensure examinations~~
634 ~~pertaining to the laws and rules related to the practice of~~
635 ~~psychology or school psychology in this state before the~~
636 ~~department may issue a license to the applicant.~~

637 ~~(3) The department shall not issue a license by~~
638 ~~endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in this~~
639 ~~or another jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a~~
640 ~~violation of this chapter until such time as the investigation~~
641 ~~is complete, at which time the provisions of s. 490.009 shall~~
642 ~~apply.~~

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

645 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

646 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to
647 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon
648 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,
649 demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the requirements
650 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145;

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651 ~~(a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of~~
652 ~~the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the~~
653 ~~practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,~~
654 ~~and mental health counseling.~~

655 ~~(b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has~~
656 ~~actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for~~
657 ~~3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;~~

658 ~~2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing~~
659 ~~examination in another state or has passed the licensure~~
660 ~~examination in this state in the profession for which the~~
661 ~~applicant seeks licensure; and~~

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

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

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

674 Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 486.031, Florida
675 Statutes, is amended to read:

676 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be
 677 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant
 678 must:

679 (3) (a) Have been graduated from a school of physical
 680 therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation
 681 of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency
 682 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary
 683 Accreditation or the United States Department of Education at
 684 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the
 685 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination
 686 prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to
 687 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 688 therapist as hereinafter provided;

689 (b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical
 690 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials
 691 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational
 692 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as
 693 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,
 694 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination
 695 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 696 therapist as hereinafter provided; or

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

699 Section 22. Subsection (3) of section 486.102, Florida
 700 Statutes, is amended to read:

701 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing
 702 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a
 703 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must:

704 (3)(a) Have been graduated from a school giving a course
 705 of not less than 2 years for physical therapist assistants,
 706 which has been approved for the educational preparation of
 707 physical therapist assistants by the appropriate accrediting
 708 agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition of
 709 Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States Department of
 710 Education, at the time of her or his graduation and have passed
 711 to the satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her
 712 or his fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant as
 713 hereinafter provided;

714 (b) Have been graduated from a school giving a course for
 715 physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have
 716 educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for
 717 the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in
 718 this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as
 719 identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the
 720 board an examination to determine her or his fitness for
 721 practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter
 722 provided;

723 (c) Be entitled to licensure by endorsement or without
 724 examination as provided in s. 486.107; or

725 (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,

726 | 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state
 727 | which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

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

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

733 | Section 23. Notwithstanding the changes made to the
 734 | Florida Statutes (2023) by this act, a board as defined in s.
 735 | 456.001, Florida Statutes, or the Department of Health, as
 736 | applicable, may continue processing applications for licensure
 737 | by endorsement as authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023)
 738 | until the rules adopted by such board or the department to
 739 | implement the changes made by this act take effect or until 6
 740 | months after the effective date of this act, whichever occurs
 741 | first.

742 | Section 24. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.