

By Senator Collins

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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

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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

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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 board or the department  
86 requires such proof, regarding licensure in the profession;

87 (f) Completes Florida-specific continuing education courses

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88 or passes a jurisprudential examination specific to the state  
89 laws and rules for the applicable profession as established by  
90 the board or department; and

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

93 (2) If the practice act for a profession requires the  
94 submission of fingerprints, the applicant must submit a complete  
95 set of fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for a  
96 statewide criminal history check. The Department of Law  
97 Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau  
98 of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The  
99 department shall, and the board may, review the results of the  
100 criminal history checks according to the level 2 screening  
101 standards in s. 435.04 and determine whether the applicant meets  
102 the licensure requirements. The costs of fingerprint processing  
103 are borne by the applicant. If the applicant's fingerprints are  
104 submitted through an authorized agency or vendor, the agency or  
105 vendor must collect the required processing fees and remit the  
106 fees to the Department of Law 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.—

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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 submission  
141 of the application, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in  
142 a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license or by the  
143 United States Department of Defense for reasons related to the  
144 practice of the profession for which he or she is applying.

145 6. Has not had professional disciplinary action taken

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146 against him or her in the 7 years immediately preceding the date  
147 of submission of the application.

148 7. Meets the financial responsibility requirements of s.  
149 456.048 or the applicable practice act, if required for the  
150 profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure.

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

154  
155 The department shall verify information submitted by the  
156 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner  
157 Data Bank, as applicable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

197 (4) ANNUAL REPORT.—By December 31 of each year, the  
198 department shall submit a report to the Governor, the President  
199 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
200 which provides all of the following information for the previous  
201 fiscal year, per profession and in total:

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

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

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

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

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

214 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

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

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

224 (b) Has completed 60 college credits from an accredited  
225 postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrollment in an  
226 authorized 3-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental  
227 medicine, and has completed a 3-year course of study in  
228 acupuncture and oriental medicine, and effective July 31, 2001,  
229 a 4-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental medicine,  
230 which meets standards established by the board by rule, which  
231 standards include, but are not limited to, successful completion  
232 of academic courses in western anatomy, western physiology,



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233 western pathology, western biomedical terminology, first aid,  
234 and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). However, any person who  
235 enrolled in an authorized course of study in acupuncture before  
236 August 1, 1997, must have completed only a 2-year course of  
237 study which meets standards established by the board by rule,  
238 which standards must include, but are not limited to, successful  
239 completion of academic courses in western anatomy, western  
240 physiology, and western pathology.†

241 (c) Has successfully completed a board-approved national  
242 certification process, meets the requirements for licensure by  
243 endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~is actively licensed in a state~~  
244 ~~that has examination requirements that are substantially~~  
245 ~~equivalent to or more stringent than those of this state,~~ or  
246 passes an examination administered by the department, which  
247 examination tests the applicant's competency and knowledge of  
248 the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the  
249 request of any applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points  
250 shall be used in the examination. The examination shall include  
251 a practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to  
252 practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental  
253 medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and  
254 procedures.†~~and~~

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

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

261 2. Application fee: \$300.

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

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

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

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

273 458.313 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fees.—The  
274 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant  
275 who, upon applying to the department on forms furnished by the  
276 department and remitting a fee set by the board in an amount not  
277 to exceed \$500, the board certifies has met the requirements for  
278 licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

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

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

283 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.—

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

290 (2) A person holding an active multistate license in

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291 another state pursuant to s. 464.0095 is exempt from the  
292 requirements for licensure by endorsement in this section.

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

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

297 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—The  
298 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant  
299 who, upon applying to the department and remitting a  
300 nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed  
301 \$100, the board certifies has met the requirements for licensure  
302 by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

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

305 467.0125 Licensed midwives; qualifications; endorsement;  
306 temporary certificates.—

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

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

319 ~~(b) Has successfully completed a prelicensure course~~

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320 ~~conducted by an accredited and approved midwifery program.~~

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

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

325 468.1185 Licensure.—

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

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

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

338 (3)~~(4)~~ The board may refuse to certify any person applying  
339 for licensure under this section ~~applicant~~ who is under  
340 investigation in any jurisdiction for an act which would  
341 constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until the  
342 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been  
343 terminated.

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

346 468.1705 Licensure by endorsement; temporary license.—

347 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to  
348 any applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting

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349 a fee set by the board not to exceed \$500, demonstrates to the  
350 board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by  
351 endorsement under s. 456.0145;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

372 ~~(2)(3)~~ The department may ~~shall~~ not issue a license by  
373 ~~endorsement or~~ a temporary license to any applicant who is under  
374 investigation in this or another state for any act which would  
375 constitute a violation of this part until such time as the  
376 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been  
377 terminated.

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

380 468.213 Licensure by endorsement; waiver of examination  
381 requirement.-

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

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

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

399 468.3065 Certification by endorsement.-

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

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407 ~~Radiologic Technologists.~~

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

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

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

429 468.358 Licensure by endorsement.—

430 (1) Licensure as a certified respiratory therapist must  
431 shall be granted by endorsement to an individual who meets the  
432 requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145  
433 holds the "Certified Respiratory Therapist" credential issued by  
434 the National Board for Respiratory Care or an equivalent  
435 credential acceptable to the board. Licensure by this mechanism

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436 ~~requires verification by oath and submission of evidence~~  
 437 ~~satisfactory to the board that such credential is held.~~

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

445 ~~(2)~~(3) An individual who has been granted licensure,  
 446 certification, registration, or other authority, by whatever  
 447 name known, to deliver respiratory care services in a foreign  
 448 ~~another state or country~~ may petition the board for  
 449 consideration for licensure in this state and, upon verification  
 450 by oath and submission of evidence of licensure, certification,  
 451 registration, or other authority acceptable to the board, may be  
 452 granted licensure by endorsement.

453 ~~(3)~~(4) Licensure may ~~shall~~ not be granted by endorsement as  
 454 provided in this section without the submission of a proper  
 455 application and the payment of the requisite fees therefor.

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

458 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—

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

464 ~~(2) The board shall certify as qualified for licensure by~~



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465 ~~endorsement under this section any applicant who:~~

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

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

473 ~~(3) The department shall not issue a license by endorsement~~  
474 ~~under this section to any applicant who is under investigation~~  
475 ~~in any jurisdiction for any act which would constitute a~~  
476 ~~violation of this part or chapter 456 until such time as the~~  
477 ~~investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been~~  
478 ~~terminated.~~

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

481 478.47 Licensure by endorsement.—The department shall issue  
482 a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon submitting  
483 ~~submits~~ an application and the required fees as set forth in s.  
484 478.55, demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the  
485 requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 and  
486 ~~who holds an active license or other authority to practice~~  
487 ~~electrology in a jurisdiction whose licensure requirements are~~  
488 ~~determined by the board to be equivalent to the requirements for~~  
489 ~~licensure in this state.~~

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

492 480.041 Massage therapists; qualifications; licensure;  
493 endorsement.—

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494 (5) The board shall adopt rules:

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

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

507 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical  
508 establishments.—

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

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

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

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523 (c) Is a graduate of an accredited high school or possesses  
524 a certificate of equivalency of a high school education. ~~;~~ and

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

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

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

543 2.4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department  
544 and paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of  
545 the board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training  
546 under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for  
547 at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under  
548 the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5  
549 years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in  
550 a recognized school may be considered as part of the  
551 apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish

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

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

557 Section 17. Section 486.081, Florida Statutes, is amended  
558 to read:

559 486.081 Physical therapist; issuance of license by  
560 endorsement; issuance of license without examination to person  
561 passing examination of another authorized examining board in a  
562 foreign country; fee.-

563 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be  
564 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any  
565 applicant who meets the requirements for licensure by  
566 endorsement under s. 456.0145 or, without examination, to any  
567 applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the board of  
568 having passed ~~the American Registry Examination prior to 1971 or~~  
569 an examination in physical therapy before a similar lawfully  
570 authorized examining board of ~~another state, the District of~~  
571 ~~Columbia, a territory, or a foreign country,~~ if the standards  
572 for licensure in physical therapy in such ~~other state, district,~~  
573 ~~territory, or~~ foreign country are determined by the board to be  
574 as high as those of this state, as established by rules adopted  
575 pursuant to this chapter. Any person who holds a license  
576 pursuant to this section may use the words "physical therapist"  
577 or "physiotherapist" or the letters "P.T." in connection with  
578 her or his name or place of business to denote her or his  
579 licensure hereunder. A person who holds a license pursuant to  
580 this section and obtains a doctoral degree in physical therapy

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581 may use the letters "D.P.T." and "P.T." A physical therapist who  
582 holds a degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy may not use the  
583 title "doctor" without also clearly informing the public of his  
584 or her profession as a physical therapist.

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

590 Section 18. Section 486.107, Florida Statutes, is amended  
591 to read:

592 486.107 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of license  
593 by endorsement ~~without examination to person licensed in another~~  
594 ~~jurisdiction; fee.-~~

595 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be  
596 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any  
597 applicant who presents evidence to the board, under oath, of  
598 meeting the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.  
599 456.0145 licensure in another state, the District of Columbia,  
600 ~~or a territory, if the standards for registering as a physical~~  
601 ~~therapist assistant or licensing of a physical therapist~~  
602 ~~assistant, as the case may be, in such other state are~~  
603 ~~determined by the board to be as high as those of this state, as~~  
604 ~~established by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.~~ Any  
605 person who holds a license pursuant to this section may use the  
606 words "physical therapist assistant," or the letters "P.T.A.,"  
607 in connection with her or his name to denote licensure  
608 hereunder.

609 (2) At the time of making application for licensure by

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610 ~~endorsement under licensing without examination pursuant to the~~  
611 ~~terms of this section, the applicant shall pay to the department~~  
612 ~~a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed~~  
613 ~~\$175 as fixed by the board, no part of which will be returned.~~

614 Section 19. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
615 490.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

616 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

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

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

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

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

635 ~~(3) The department shall not issue a license by endorsement~~  
636 ~~to any applicant who is under investigation in this or another~~  
637 ~~jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a violation of~~  
638 ~~this chapter until such time as the investigation is complete,~~

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639 ~~at which time the provisions of s. 490.009 shall apply.~~

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

642 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

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

648 ~~(a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of the~~  
649 ~~board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of~~  
650 ~~elinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental~~  
651 ~~health counseling.~~

652 ~~(b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has~~  
653 ~~actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for~~  
654 ~~3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;~~

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

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

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

665 ~~(2) The department shall not issue a license or certificate~~  
666 ~~by endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in~~  
667 ~~this or another jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a~~

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668 ~~violation of this chapter until such time as the investigation~~  
669 ~~is complete, at which time the provisions of s. 491.009 shall~~  
670 ~~apply.~~

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

673 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be  
674 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant  
675 must:

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

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

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

696 Section 22. Subsection (3) of section 486.102, Florida



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697 Statutes, is amended to read:

698 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing  
699 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a  
700 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must:

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

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

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

722 (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,  
723 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state  
724 which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

725 1. Have been graduated or be eligible to graduate from such

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726 school no later than July 1, 2018; and

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

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

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