

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; and 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 applicant meets certain  
7       criteria; requiring applicants of professions that  
8       require fingerprints for criminal history checks to  
9       submit such fingerprints before the board or  
10      department issues a license by endorsement; requiring  
11      the department, and authorizing the board, as  
12      applicable, to review the results of the criminal  
13      history checks according to specified criteria to  
14      determine if the applicants meet the requirements for  
15      licensure; requiring that the costs associated with  
16      fingerprint processing be borne by the applicant; if  
17      fingerprints are submitted through an authorized  
18      agency or vendor, requiring such agency or vendor to  
19      collect the processing fees and remit them to the  
20      Department of Law Enforcement; providing an exception;  
21      creating s. 456.0145, F.S.; providing a short title;  
22      requiring the applicable health care regulatory  
23      boards, or the Department of Health if there is no  
24      board, to issue a license or certificate to applicants  
25      who meet specified conditions; defining the term  
26      "scope of practice"; requiring the department to  
27      verify certain information using the National  
28      Practitioner Data Bank, as applicable; specifying  
29      circumstances under which a person is ineligible for a

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30 license; authorizing boards or the department, as  
31 applicable, to revoke a license upon a specified  
32 finding; requiring boards or the department, as  
33 applicable, to issue licenses to qualified applicants  
34 within a specified timeframe; authorizing boards or  
35 the department, as applicable, to require that  
36 applicants successfully complete a jurisprudential  
37 examination under certain circumstances; requiring the  
38 department to submit an annual report to the Governor  
39 and the Legislature by a specified date; providing  
40 requirements for the report; requiring the boards or  
41 the department, as applicable, to adopt certain rules  
42 within a specified timeframe; amending ss. 457.105,  
43 458.313, 464.009, 464.203, 465.0075, 467.0125,  
44 468.1185, 468.1705, 468.209, 468.213, 468.513, 478.47,  
45 480.041, 484.007, 486.081, 486.107, 490.006, and  
46 491.006, F.S.; revising licensure by endorsement  
47 requirements for the practice of acupuncture,  
48 medicine, professional or practical nursing, certified  
49 nursing, pharmacy, midwifery, speech-language  
50 pathology and audiology, nursing home administration,  
51 occupational therapy, dietetics and nutrition,  
52 electrology, massage therapy, opticianry, physical  
53 therapy, physical therapist assistantship, psychology  
54 and school psychology, and clinical social work,  
55 marriage and family therapy, and mental health  
56 counseling, respectively; amending ss. 486.031 and  
57 486.102, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made  
58 by the act; authorizing the boards or the Department

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59 of Health, as applicable, to continue processing  
60 applications for licensure by endorsement, as  
61 authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023), for a  
62 specified timeframe; providing an effective date.  
63

64 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
65

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

68 455.2135 Interstate mobility.—

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

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

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

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

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

85 (e) Shows proof of compliance with any federal regulation,  
86 training, or certification, if the board or the department  
87 requires such proof, regarding licensure in the profession;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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117 (2) LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT.—

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

121 1. Submits a complete application.

122 2. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another  
123 state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United  
124 States in a profession with a similar scope of practice, as  
125 determined by the board or department, as applicable. The term  
126 “scope of practice” means the full spectrum of functions,  
127 procedures, actions, and services that a health care  
128 practitioner is deemed competent and authorized to perform under  
129 a license issued in 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 disciplinary action taken against him or her

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146 in the 5 years immediately preceding the date of submission of  
147 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 screening  
152 pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the profession for  
153 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 he or she:

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 territory of the United States, or has voluntarily surrendered  
178 any such license in lieu of having disciplinary action taken  
179 against the license; or

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

206       (d) The number of complaints, investigations, or other  
207 disciplinary actions taken against health care practitioners who  
208 are licensed under this section.

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

214       Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
215 457.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

216       457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

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

219       (c) Has successfully completed a board-approved national  
220 certification process, meets the requirements for licensure by  
221 endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~is actively licensed in a state~~  
222 ~~that has examination requirements that are substantially~~  
223 ~~equivalent to or more stringent than those of this state, or~~  
224 passes an examination administered by the department, which  
225 examination tests the applicant's competency and knowledge of  
226 the practice of acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the  
227 request of any applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points  
228 shall be used in the examination. The examination shall include  
229 a practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to  
230 practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental  
231 medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and  
232 procedures; and



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233 Section 4. Section 458.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
234 read:

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

237 458.313 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fees.—The  
238 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant  
239 who, upon applying to the department on forms furnished by the  
240 department and remitting a fee set by the board in an amount not  
241 to exceed \$500, the board certifies has met the requirements for  
242 licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

243 Section 5. Section 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
244 read:

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

247 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.—

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

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

257 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
258 464.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

259 464.203 Certified nursing assistants; certification  
260 requirement.—

261 (1) The board shall issue a certificate to practice as a

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262 certified nursing assistant to any person who demonstrates a  
263 minimum competency to read and write and successfully passes the  
264 required background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. If the  
265 person has successfully passed the required background screening  
266 pursuant to s. 400.215 or s. 408.809 within 90 days before  
267 applying for a certificate to practice and the person's  
268 background screening results are not retained in the  
269 clearinghouse created under s. 435.12, the board shall waive the  
270 requirement that the applicant successfully pass an additional  
271 background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. The person must  
272 also meet one of the following requirements:

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

279 Section 7. Section 465.0075, Florida Statutes, is amended  
280 to read:

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

283 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—The  
284 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant  
285 who, upon applying to the department and remitting a  
286 nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed  
287 \$100, the board certifies has met the requirements for licensure  
288 by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

289 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 467.0125, Florida  
290 Statutes, is amended to read:

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291 467.0125 Licensed midwives; qualifications; endorsement;  
292 temporary certificates.-

293 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to  
294 practice midwifery to an applicant who, ~~upon applying to the~~  
295 ~~department,~~ demonstrates to the department that she or he meets  
296 all of the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.  
297 456.0145, following criteria:

298 ~~(a) Holds an active, unencumbered license to practice~~  
299 ~~midwifery in another state, jurisdiction, or territory, provided~~  
300 ~~the licensing requirements of that state, jurisdiction, or~~  
301 ~~territory at the time the license was issued were substantially~~  
302 ~~equivalent to or exceeded those established under this chapter~~  
303 ~~and the rules adopted hereunder.~~

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

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

308 Section 9. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 468.1185,  
309 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

310 468.1185 Licensure.-

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

314 ~~(a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state~~  
315 ~~or territory of the United States to practice the profession for~~  
316 ~~which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for~~  
317 ~~issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or~~  
318 ~~more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this~~  
319 ~~state at the time the license was issued; or~~

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320 ~~(b) Holds a valid certificate of clinical competence of the~~  
321 ~~American Speech Language and Hearing Association or board~~  
322 ~~certification in audiology from the American Board of Audiology.~~

323 (3)~~(4)~~ The board may refuse to certify any person applying  
324 for licensure under this section ~~applicant~~ who is under  
325 investigation in any jurisdiction for an act which would  
326 constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until the  
327 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been  
328 terminated.

329 Section 10. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
330 468.1705, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

331 468.1705 Licensure by endorsement; temporary license.—

332 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to  
333 any applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting  
334 a fee set by the board not to exceed \$500, demonstrates to the  
335 board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by  
336 endorsement under s. 456.0145;

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

338 ~~1. Holds a valid active license to practice nursing home~~  
339 ~~administration in another state of the United States, provided~~  
340 ~~that the current requirements for licensure in that state are~~  
341 ~~substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, current~~  
342 ~~requirements in this state; or~~

343 ~~2. Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 468.1695;~~  
344 and

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

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

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

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

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

357 ~~(2)(3) The department may shall not issue a license by~~  
358 ~~endorsement or a temporary license to any applicant who is under~~  
359 ~~investigation in this or another state for any act which would~~  
360 ~~constitute a violation of this part until such time as the~~  
361 ~~investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been~~  
362 ~~terminated.~~

363 Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 468.209, Florida  
364 Statutes, is amended to read:

365 468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

366 (3) If the board determines that an applicant is qualified  
367 to be licensed by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~s. 468.213~~, the  
368 board may issue the applicant a temporary permit to practice  
369 occupational therapy until the next board meeting at which  
370 license applications are to be considered, but not for a longer  
371 period of time. Only one temporary permit by endorsement shall  
372 be issued to an applicant, and it shall not be renewable.

373 Section 12. Section 468.213, Florida Statutes, is amended  
374 to read:

375 468.213 Licensure by endorsement; waiver of examination  
376 requirement.—

377 (1) The board may ~~waive the examination and~~ grant a license

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378 to any person who meets the requirements for licensure by  
379 endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~presents proof of current~~  
380 ~~certification as an occupational therapist or occupational~~  
381 ~~therapy assistant by a national certifying organization if the~~  
382 ~~board determines the requirements for such certification to be~~  
383 ~~equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this act.~~

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

392 Section 13. Section 468.513, Florida Statutes, is amended  
393 to read:

394 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.-

395 ~~(1) The department shall issue a license to practice~~  
396 ~~dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who~~  
397 ~~meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.~~  
398 ~~456.0145 ~~the board certifies as qualified, upon receipt of a~~~~  
399 ~~completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.~~

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

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

404 ~~(b) Holds a valid license to practice dietetics or~~  
405 ~~nutrition issued by another state, district, or territory of the~~  
406 ~~United States, if the criteria for issuance of such license are~~

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407 ~~determined by the board to be substantially equivalent to or~~  
408 ~~more stringent than those of this state.~~

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

415 Section 14. Section 478.47, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
416 read:

417 478.47 Licensure by endorsement.—The department shall issue  
418 a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon submitting  
419 ~~submits~~ an application and the required fees as set forth in s.  
420 478.55, demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the  
421 requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 and  
422 ~~who holds an active license or other authority to practice~~  
423 ~~electrology in a jurisdiction whose licensure requirements are~~  
424 ~~determined by the board to be equivalent to the requirements for~~  
425 ~~licensure in this state.~~

426 Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section  
427 480.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

428 480.041 Massage therapists; qualifications; licensure;  
429 endorsement.—

430 (5) The board shall adopt rules:

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

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436 jurisdiction which has licensing standards substantially similar  
437 to, equivalent to, or more stringent than the standards of this  
438 state.

439 Section 16. Present subsections (3) and (4) of section  
440 484.007, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)  
441 and (5), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that  
442 section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to read:

443 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical  
444 establishments.—

445 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply  
446 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a  
447 licensure examination. The department shall examine each  
448 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following  
449 criteria:

450 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a  
451 nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of  
452 \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the  
453 amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the  
454 department for purchase of portions of the examination from the  
455 American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization,  
456 or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant  
457 ineligible to take the examination.†

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

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

461 (d)1. Has received an associate degree, or its equivalent,  
462 in opticianry from an educational institution the curriculum of  
463 which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and  
464 approved by the United States Department of Education or the



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465 Council on Postsecondary Education or approved by the board;

466 ~~2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of~~  
467 ~~opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another~~  
468 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has~~  
469 ~~actively practiced in such other state, territory, or~~  
470 ~~jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding~~  
471 ~~application, and who meets the examination qualifications as~~  
472 ~~provided in this subsection;~~

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

479 2.4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department  
480 and paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of  
481 the board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training  
482 under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for  
483 at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under  
484 the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5  
485 years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in  
486 a recognized school may be considered as part of the  
487 apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish  
488 administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of  
489 administering apprentice rules as promulgated by the board.

490 (3) The board shall certify to the department for licensure  
491 by endorsement any applicant who meets the requirements for  
492 licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

493 Section 17. Section 486.081, Florida Statutes, is amended

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494 to read:

495 486.081 Physical therapist; issuance of license by  
496 endorsement; issuance of license without examination to person  
497 passing examination of another authorized examining board in a  
498 foreign country; fee.—

499 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be  
500 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any  
501 applicant who meets the requirements for licensure by  
502 endorsement under s. 456.0145 or, without examination, to any  
503 applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the board of  
504 having passed ~~the American Registry Examination prior to 1971 or~~  
505 an examination in physical therapy before a similar lawfully  
506 authorized examining board of ~~another state, the District of~~  
507 ~~Columbia, a territory, or a foreign country,~~ if the standards  
508 for licensure in physical therapy in such ~~other state, district,~~  
509 ~~territory, or foreign country~~ are determined by the board to be  
510 as high as those of this state, as established by rules adopted  
511 pursuant to this chapter. Any person who holds a license  
512 pursuant to this section may use the words "physical therapist"  
513 or "physiotherapist" or the letters "P.T." in connection with  
514 her or his name or place of business to denote her or his  
515 licensure hereunder. A person who holds a license pursuant to  
516 this section and obtains a doctoral degree in physical therapy  
517 may use the letters "D.P.T." and "P.T." A physical therapist who  
518 holds a degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy may not use the  
519 title "doctor" without also clearly informing the public of his  
520 or her profession as a physical therapist.

521 (2) At the time of making application for licensure under  
522 ~~without examination pursuant to the terms of~~ this section, the

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523 applicant shall pay to the department a nonrefundable fee set by  
524 the board in an amount not to exceed \$175 ~~as fixed by the board,~~  
525 ~~no part of which will be returned.~~

526 Section 18. Section 486.107, Florida Statutes, is amended  
527 to read:

528 486.107 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of license  
529 by endorsement ~~without examination to person licensed in another~~  
530 ~~jurisdiction; fee.-~~

531 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be  
532 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any  
533 applicant who presents evidence to the board, under oath, of  
534 meeting the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.  
535 456.0145 licensure in another state, the District of Columbia,  
536 ~~or a territory, if the standards for registering as a physical~~  
537 ~~therapist assistant or licensing of a physical therapist~~  
538 ~~assistant, as the case may be, in such other state are~~  
539 ~~determined by the board to be as high as those of this state, as~~  
540 ~~established by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. Any~~  
541 person who holds a license pursuant to this section may use the  
542 words "physical therapist assistant," or the letters "P.T.A.,"  
543 in connection with her or his name to denote licensure  
544 hereunder.

545 (2) At the time of making application for licensure by  
546 endorsement under ~~licensing without examination pursuant to the~~  
547 ~~terms of~~ this section, the applicant shall pay to the department  
548 a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed  
549 \$175 ~~as fixed by the board, no part of which will be returned.~~

550 Section 19. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
551 490.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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552 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

553 (1) The department shall license a person as a psychologist  
554 or school psychologist who, upon applying to the department and  
555 remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to the department  
556 or, in the case of psychologists, to the board that the  
557 applicant meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement  
558 under s. 456.0145;

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

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

565 ~~(2) In addition to meeting the requirements for licensure~~  
566 ~~set forth in subsection (1), an applicant must pass that portion~~  
567 ~~of the psychology or school psychology licensure examinations~~  
568 ~~pertaining to the laws and rules related to the practice of~~  
569 ~~psychology or school psychology in this state before the~~  
570 ~~department may issue a license to the applicant.~~

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

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

578 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

579 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to  
580 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon

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581 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,  
582 demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the requirements  
583 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145;

584 ~~(a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of the~~  
585 ~~board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of~~  
586 ~~clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental~~  
587 ~~health counseling.~~

588 ~~(b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has~~  
589 ~~actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for~~  
590 ~~3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;~~

591 ~~2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing~~  
592 ~~examination in another state or has passed the licensure~~  
593 ~~examination in this state in the profession for which the~~  
594 ~~applicant seeks licensure; and~~

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

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

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

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

609 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be

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610 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant  
611 must:

612 (3) (a) Have been graduated from a school of physical  
613 therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation  
614 of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency  
615 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
616 Accreditation or the United States Department of Education at  
617 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the  
618 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination  
619 prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to  
620 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical  
621 therapist as hereinafter provided;

622 (b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical  
623 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials  
624 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational  
625 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as  
626 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,  
627 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination  
628 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical  
629 therapist as hereinafter provided; or

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

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

634 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing  
635 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a  
636 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must:

637 (3) (a) Have been graduated from a school giving a course of  
638 not less than 2 years for physical therapist assistants, which

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639 has been approved for the educational preparation of physical  
640 therapist assistants by the appropriate accrediting agency  
641 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
642 Accreditation or the United States Department of Education, at  
643 the time of her or his graduation and have passed to the  
644 satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her or his  
645 fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant as  
646 hereinafter provided;

647 (b) Have been graduated from a school giving a course for  
648 physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have  
649 educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for  
650 the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in  
651 this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as  
652 identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the  
653 board an examination to determine her or his fitness for  
654 practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter  
655 provided;

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

658 (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,  
659 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state  
660 which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

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

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

666 Section 23. Notwithstanding the changes made to the Florida  
667 Statutes (2023) by this act, a board as defined in s. 456.001,

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668 Florida Statutes, or the Department of Health, as applicable,  
669 may continue processing applications for licensure by  
670 endorsement as authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023)  
671 until the rules adopted by such board or the department to  
672 implement the changes made by this act take effect or until 6  
673 months after the effective date of this act, whichever occurs  
674 first.

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