

20241600er

1  
2 An act relating to interstate mobility; amending s.  
3 455.213, F.S.; providing requirements for the  
4 applicable board, or the Department of Business and  
5 Professional Regulation if there is no board, relating  
6 to licensure by reciprocity and by endorsement;  
7 defining the term "basis license"; creating s.  
8 455.2135, F.S.; requiring the respective boards of  
9 occupations, or the Department of Business and  
10 Professional Regulation if there is no board, to allow  
11 licensure by endorsement if applicant meets certain  
12 criteria; requiring applicants of professions that  
13 require fingerprints for criminal history checks to  
14 submit such fingerprints before the board or  
15 department issues a license by endorsement; requiring  
16 the department, and authorizing the board, as  
17 applicable, to review the results of the criminal  
18 history checks according to specified criteria to  
19 determine if the applicants meet the requirements for  
20 licensure; requiring that the costs associated with  
21 fingerprint processing be borne by the applicant; if  
22 fingerprints are submitted through an authorized  
23 agency or vendor, requiring such agency or vendor to  
24 collect the processing fees and remit them to the  
25 Department of Law Enforcement; providing an exception;  
26 creating s. 456.0145, F.S.; providing a short title;  
27 requiring the applicable health care regulatory  
28 boards, or the Department of Health if there is no  
29 board, to issue a license or certificate to applicants

20241600er

30 who meet specified conditions; defining the term  
31 "scope of practice"; requiring the department to  
32 verify certain information using the National  
33 Practitioner Data Bank, as applicable; specifying  
34 circumstances under which a person is ineligible for a  
35 license; authorizing boards or the department, as  
36 applicable, to revoke a license upon a specified  
37 finding; requiring boards or the department, as  
38 applicable, to issue licenses to qualified applicants  
39 within a specified timeframe; authorizing boards or  
40 the department, as applicable, to require that  
41 applicants successfully complete a jurisprudential  
42 examination under certain circumstances; requiring the  
43 department to submit an annual report to the Governor  
44 and the Legislature by a specified date; providing  
45 requirements for the report; requiring the boards or  
46 the department, as applicable, to adopt certain rules  
47 within a specified timeframe; amending ss. 457.105,  
48 458.313, 464.009, 464.203, 465.0075, 467.0125,  
49 468.1185, 468.1705, 468.209, 468.213, 468.513, 478.47,  
50 480.041, 484.007, 486.081, 486.107, 490.006, and  
51 491.006, F.S.; revising licensure by endorsement  
52 requirements for the practice of acupuncture,  
53 medicine, professional or practical nursing, certified  
54 nursing, pharmacy, midwifery, speech-language  
55 pathology and audiology, nursing home administration,  
56 occupational therapy, dietetics and nutrition,  
57 electrology, massage therapy, opticianry, physical  
58 therapy, physical therapist assistantship, psychology

20241600er

59 and school psychology, and clinical social work,  
60 marriage and family therapy, and mental health  
61 counseling, respectively; amending ss. 486.031 and  
62 486.102, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made  
63 by the act; authorizing the boards or the Department  
64 of Health, as applicable, to continue processing  
65 applications for licensure by endorsement, as  
66 authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023), for a  
67 specified timeframe; providing an effective date.  
68

69 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
70

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

74 455.213 General licensing provisions.—

75 (15) (a) Before the board, or the department if there is no  
76 board, may deny an application for licensure by reciprocity or  
77 by endorsement, the board, or the department if there is no  
78 board, must make a finding that the basis license in another  
79 jurisdiction is or is not substantially equivalent to or is  
80 otherwise insufficient for a license in this state.

81 (b) If the board, or the department if there is no board,  
82 finds that the basis license in another jurisdiction is not  
83 substantially equivalent to or is otherwise insufficient for a  
84 license in this state and there are no other grounds to deny the  
85 application for licensure, within 7 business days after being  
86 notified of such finding, the applicant may request that the  
87 finding be submitted to the secretary for review. Within 7

20241600er

88 business days after receiving such request, the secretary must  
89 review the finding and either agree or disagree with the  
90 finding. If the secretary agrees with the finding, the  
91 application for licensure may be denied. If the secretary  
92 disagrees with the finding, the application for licensure must  
93 be approved unless other grounds for denial exist. The decision  
94 must be entered according to the secretary's finding, unless  
95 other grounds for denial exist.

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

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

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

108 455.2135 Interstate mobility.—

109 (1) When endorsement based upon years of licensure or  
110 endorsement based upon satisfaction or completion of multiple  
111 criteria that include passage of a licensure or registration  
112 examination, completion of internship requirements, or the  
113 holding of a valid certificate issued by a national accrediting  
114 agency board along with holding a valid license, registration,  
115 or certification issued in another jurisdiction is not otherwise  
116 provided by law in the practice act for a profession, the board,

20241600er

117 or the department if there is no board, shall allow licensure by  
118 endorsement for any individual applying who:

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

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

126 (c) Has passed the recognized national licensing exam, if  
127 such exam is established as a requirement for licensure in the  
128 profession;

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

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

134 (f) Completes Florida-specific continuing education courses  
135 or passes a jurisprudential examination specific to the state  
136 laws and rules for the applicable profession as established by  
137 the board or department; and

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

140 (2) If the practice act for a profession requires the  
141 submission of fingerprints, the applicant must submit a complete  
142 set of fingerprints to the Department of Law Enforcement for a  
143 statewide criminal history check. The Department of Law  
144 Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau  
145 of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The

20241600er

146 department shall, and the board may, review the results of the  
147 criminal history checks according to the level 2 screening  
148 standards in s. 435.04 and determine whether the applicant meets  
149 the licensure requirements. The costs of fingerprint processing  
150 are borne by the applicant. If the applicant's fingerprints are  
151 submitted through an authorized agency or vendor, the agency or  
152 vendor must collect the required processing fees and remit the  
153 fees to the Department of Law Enforcement.

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

156 Section 3. Section 456.0145, Florida Statutes, is created  
157 to read:

158 456.0145 Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure  
159 Endorsement (MOBILE) Act.—

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

163 (2) LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT.—

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

167 1. Submits a complete application.

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

20241600er

175 a license issued in this state.

176 3.a. Has obtained a passing score on a national licensure  
177 examination or holds a national certification recognized by the  
178 board, or the department if there is no board, as applicable to  
179 the profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure in  
180 this state; or

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

182 4. Has actively practiced the profession for which the  
183 applicant is applying for at least 3 years during the 4-year  
184 period immediately preceding the date of submission of the  
185 application.

186 5. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of submission  
187 of the application, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in  
188 a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license or by the  
189 United States Department of Defense for reasons related to the  
190 practice of the profession for which he or she is applying.

191 6. Has not had disciplinary action taken against him or her  
192 in the 5 years immediately preceding the date of submission of  
193 the application.

194 7. Meets the financial responsibility requirements of s.  
195 456.048 or the applicable practice act, if required for the  
196 profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure.

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

200  
201 The department shall verify information submitted by the  
202 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner  
203 Data Bank, as applicable.

20241600er

204       (b) An applicant for a profession that does not require a  
205 national examination or national certification is eligible for  
206 licensure if an applicable board, or the department if there is  
207 no board, determines that the jurisdiction in which the  
208 applicant currently holds an active, unencumbered license meets  
209 established minimum education requirements and, if applicable,  
210 examination, work experience, and clinical supervision  
211 requirements that are substantially similar to the requirements  
212 for licensure in that profession in this state.

213       (c) A person is ineligible for a license under this section  
214 if the he or she:

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

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

221           3. Has had a health care provider license revoked or  
222 suspended by another state, the District of Columbia, or a  
223 territory of the United States, or has voluntarily surrendered  
224 any such license in lieu of having disciplinary action taken  
225 against the license; or

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

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



20241600er

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

236       (3) STATE EXAMINATION.—The board, or the department if  
237 there is no board, may require an applicant to successfully  
238 complete a jurisprudential examination specific to state laws  
239 and rules that regulate the applicable profession, if this  
240 chapter or the applicable practice act requires such  
241 examination.

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

247       (a) The number of applications for licensure received under  
248 this section.

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

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

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

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

260       Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
261 457.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20241600er

262 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

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

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

279 Section 5. Section 458.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
280 read:

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

283 458.313 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fees.—The  
284 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant  
285 who, upon applying to the department on forms furnished by the  
286 department and remitting a fee set by the board in an amount not  
287 to exceed \$500, the board certifies has met the requirements for  
288 licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

289 Section 6. Section 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
290 read:

20241600er

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

293 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.-

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

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

303 Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
304 464.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

305 464.203 Certified nursing assistants; certification  
306 requirement.-

307 (1) The board shall issue a certificate to practice as a  
308 certified nursing assistant to any person who demonstrates a  
309 minimum competency to read and write and successfully passes the  
310 required background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. If the  
311 person has successfully passed the required background screening  
312 pursuant to s. 400.215 or s. 408.809 within 90 days before  
313 applying for a certificate to practice and the person's  
314 background screening results are not retained in the  
315 clearinghouse created under s. 435.12, the board shall waive the  
316 requirement that the applicant successfully pass an additional  
317 background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. The person must  
318 also meet one of the following requirements:

319 (c) Has been deemed by the board as eligible for licensure

20241600er

320 ~~by endorsement under s. 456.0145 is currently certified in~~  
321 ~~another state or territory of the United States or in the~~  
322 ~~District of Columbia; is listed on that jurisdiction's certified~~  
323 ~~nursing assistant registry; and has not been found to have~~  
324 ~~committed abuse, neglect, or exploitation in that jurisdiction.~~

325 Section 8. Section 465.0075, Florida Statutes, is amended  
326 to read:

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

329 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—The  
330 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant  
331 who, upon applying to the department and remitting a  
332 nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed  
333 \$100, the board certifies has met the requirements for licensure  
334 by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

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

337 467.0125 Licensed midwives; qualifications; endorsement;  
338 temporary certificates.—

339 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to  
340 practice midwifery to an applicant who, ~~upon applying to the~~  
341 ~~department,~~ demonstrates to the department that she or he meets  
342 ~~all of the~~ requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.  
343 456.0145, following criteria:

344 ~~(a) Holds an active, unencumbered license to practice~~  
345 ~~midwifery in another state, jurisdiction, or territory, provided~~  
346 ~~the licensing requirements of that state, jurisdiction, or~~  
347 ~~territory at the time the license was issued were substantially~~  
348 ~~equivalent to or exceeded those established under this chapter~~

20241600er

349 ~~and the rules adopted hereunder.~~

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

352 ~~(e)~~ submits an application for licensure on a form approved  
353 by the department, and pays the appropriate fee.

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

356 468.1185 Licensure.—

357 ~~(3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by~~  
358 ~~endorsement as a speech language pathologist or audiologist an~~  
359 ~~applicant who:~~

360 ~~(a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state~~  
361 ~~or territory of the United States to practice the profession for~~  
362 ~~which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for~~  
363 ~~issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or~~  
364 ~~more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this~~  
365 ~~state at the time the license was issued; or~~

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

369 (3)(4) The board may refuse to certify any person applying  
370 for licensure under this section ~~applicant~~ who is under  
371 investigation in any jurisdiction for an act which would  
372 constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until the  
373 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been  
374 terminated.

375 Section 11. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
376 468.1705, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

377 468.1705 Licensure by endorsement; temporary license.—

20241600er

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

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

384 ~~1. Holds a valid active license to practice nursing home~~  
385 ~~administration in another state of the United States, provided~~  
386 ~~that the current requirements for licensure in that state are~~  
387 ~~substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, current~~  
388 ~~requirements in this state; or~~

389 ~~2. Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 468.1695;~~  
390 ~~and~~

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

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

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

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

403 (2)~~(3)~~ The department may ~~shall~~ not issue a license by  
404 ~~endorsement or~~ a temporary license to any applicant who is under  
405 investigation in this or another state for any act which would  
406 constitute a violation of this part until such time as the

20241600er

407 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been  
408 terminated.

409 Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 468.209, Florida  
410 Statutes, is amended to read:

411 468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

412 (3) If the board determines that an applicant is qualified  
413 to be licensed by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~s. 468.213~~, the  
414 board may issue the applicant a temporary permit to practice  
415 occupational therapy until the next board meeting at which  
416 license applications are to be considered, but not for a longer  
417 period of time. Only one temporary permit by endorsement shall  
418 be issued to an applicant, and it shall not be renewable.

419 Section 13. Section 468.213, Florida Statutes, is amended  
420 to read:

421 468.213 Licensure by endorsement; waiver of examination  
422 requirement.—

423 (1) The board may ~~waive the examination and~~ grant a license  
424 to any person who meets the requirements for licensure by  
425 endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~presents proof of current~~  
426 ~~certification as an occupational therapist or occupational~~  
427 ~~therapy assistant by a national certifying organization if the~~  
428 ~~board determines the requirements for such certification to be~~  
429 ~~equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this act.~~

430 (2) The board may waive the examination and grant a license  
431 to any applicant who presents proof of current licensure as an  
432 occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in a  
433 ~~another state, the District of Columbia, or any territory or~~  
434 ~~jurisdiction of the United States or~~ foreign national  
435 jurisdiction which requires standards for licensure determined

20241600er

436 by the board to be equivalent to the requirements for licensure  
437 in this part act.

438 Section 14. Section 468.513, Florida Statutes, is amended  
439 to read:

440 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—

441 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue a license to practice  
442 dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who  
443 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.  
444 456.0145 ~~the board certifies as qualified,~~ upon receipt of a  
445 completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.

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

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

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

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

461 Section 15. Section 478.47, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
462 read:

463 478.47 Licensure by endorsement.—The department shall issue  
464 a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon submitting



20241600er

465 ~~submits~~ an application and the required fees as set forth in s.  
466 478.55, demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the  
467 requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 and  
468 ~~who holds an active license or other authority to practice~~  
469 ~~electrology in a jurisdiction whose licensure requirements are~~  
470 ~~determined by the board to be equivalent to the requirements for~~  
471 ~~licensure in this state.~~

472 Section 16. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section  
473 480.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

474 480.041 Massage therapists; qualifications; licensure;  
475 endorsement.—

476 (5) The board shall adopt rules:

477 (c) Specifying licensing procedures for practitioners  
478 desiring to be licensed in this state who meet the requirements  
479 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 or hold an active  
480 license and have practiced in ~~any other state, territory, or~~  
481 ~~jurisdiction of the United States or~~ any foreign national  
482 jurisdiction which has licensing standards substantially similar  
483 to, equivalent to, or more stringent than the standards of this  
484 state.

485 Section 17. Present subsections (3) and (4) of section  
486 484.007, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)  
487 and (5), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that  
488 section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to read:

489 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical  
490 establishments.—

491 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply  
492 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a  
493 licensure examination. The department shall examine each

20241600er

494 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following  
495 criteria:

496 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a  
497 nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of  
498 \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the  
499 amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the  
500 department for purchase of portions of the examination from the  
501 American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization,  
502 or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant  
503 ineligible to take the examination.†

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

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

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

512 ~~2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of~~  
513 ~~opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another~~  
514 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has~~  
515 ~~actively practiced in such other state, territory, or~~  
516 ~~jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding~~  
517 ~~application, and who meets the examination qualifications as~~  
518 ~~provided in this subsection;~~

519 ~~3. Is an individual who has actively practiced in another~~  
520 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for more~~  
521 ~~than 5 years immediately preceding application and who provides~~  
522 ~~tax or business records, affidavits, or other satisfactory~~

20241600er

523 ~~documentation of such practice and who meets the examination~~  
524 ~~qualifications as provided in this subsection; or~~

525 2.4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department  
526 and paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of  
527 the board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training  
528 under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for  
529 at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under  
530 the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5  
531 years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in  
532 a recognized school may be considered as part of the  
533 apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish  
534 administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of  
535 administering apprentice rules as promulgated by the board.

536 (3) The board shall certify to the department for licensure  
537 by endorsement any applicant who meets the requirements for  
538 licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

539 Section 18. Section 486.081, Florida Statutes, is amended  
540 to read:

541 486.081 Physical therapist; issuance of license by  
542 endorsement; issuance of license without examination to person  
543 passing examination of another authorized examining board in a  
544 foreign country; fee.-

545 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be  
546 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any  
547 applicant who meets the requirements for licensure by  
548 endorsement under s. 456.0145 or, without examination, to any  
549 applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the board of  
550 having passed ~~the American Registry Examination prior to 1971 or~~  
551 an examination in physical therapy before a similar lawfully

20241600er

552 authorized examining board of ~~another state, the District of~~  
553 ~~Columbia, a territory, or~~ a foreign country, if the standards  
554 for licensure in physical therapy in such ~~other state, district,~~  
555 ~~territory, or~~ foreign country are determined by the board to be  
556 as high as those of this state, as established by rules adopted  
557 pursuant to this chapter. Any person who holds a license  
558 pursuant to this section may use the words "physical therapist"  
559 or "physiotherapist" or the letters "P.T." in connection with  
560 her or his name or place of business to denote her or his  
561 licensure hereunder. A person who holds a license pursuant to  
562 this section and obtains a doctoral degree in physical therapy  
563 may use the letters "D.P.T." and "P.T." A physical therapist who  
564 holds a degree of Doctor of Physical Therapy may not use the  
565 title "doctor" without also clearly informing the public of his  
566 or her profession as a physical therapist.

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

572 Section 19. Section 486.107, Florida Statutes, is amended  
573 to read:

574 486.107 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of license  
575 by endorsement ~~without examination to person licensed in another~~  
576 ~~jurisdiction; fee.-~~

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

20241600er

581 ~~456.0145 licensure in another state, the District of Columbia,~~  
582 ~~or a territory, if the standards for registering as a physical~~  
583 ~~therapist assistant or licensing of a physical therapist~~  
584 ~~assistant, as the case may be, in such other state are~~  
585 ~~determined by the board to be as high as those of this state, as~~  
586 ~~established by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter. Any~~  
587 ~~person who holds a license pursuant to this section may use the~~  
588 ~~words "physical therapist assistant," or the letters "P.T.A.,"~~  
589 ~~in connection with her or his name to denote licensure~~  
590 ~~hereunder.~~

591 (2) At the time of making application for licensure by  
592 endorsement under ~~licensing without examination pursuant to the~~  
593 ~~terms of~~ this section, the applicant shall pay to the department  
594 a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed  
595 \$175 ~~as fixed by the board, no part of which will be returned.~~

596 Section 20. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
597 490.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

598 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

599 (1) The department shall license a person as a psychologist  
600 or school psychologist who, upon applying to the department and  
601 remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to the department  
602 or, in the case of psychologists, to the board that the  
603 applicant meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement  
604 under s. 456.0145;

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

607 ~~(b) Possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has at~~  
608 ~~least 10 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any~~  
609 ~~jurisdiction or territory of the United States within the 25~~

20241600er

610 ~~years preceding the date of application.~~

611 ~~(2) In addition to meeting the requirements for licensure~~  
612 ~~set forth in subsection (1), an applicant must pass that portion~~  
613 ~~of the psychology or school psychology licensure examinations~~  
614 ~~pertaining to the laws and rules related to the practice of~~  
615 ~~psychology or school psychology in this state before the~~  
616 ~~department may issue a license to the applicant.~~

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

622 Section 21. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 491.006,  
623 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

624 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

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

630 ~~(a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of the~~  
631 ~~board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of~~  
632 ~~clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental~~  
633 ~~health counseling.~~

634 ~~(b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has~~  
635 ~~actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for~~  
636 ~~3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;~~

637 ~~2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing~~  
638 ~~examination in another state or has passed the licensure~~

20241600er

639 ~~examination in this state in the profession for which the~~  
640 ~~applicant seeks licensure; and~~

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

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

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

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

655 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be  
656 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant  
657 must:

658 (3) (a) Have been graduated from a school of physical  
659 therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation  
660 of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency  
661 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
662 Accreditation or the United States Department of Education at  
663 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the  
664 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination  
665 prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to  
666 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical  
667 therapist as hereinafter provided;

20241600er

668 (b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical  
669 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials  
670 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational  
671 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as  
672 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,  
673 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination  
674 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical  
675 therapist as hereinafter provided; or

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

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

680 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing  
681 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a  
682 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must:

683 (3) (a) Have been graduated from a school giving a course of  
684 not less than 2 years for physical therapist assistants, which  
685 has been approved for the educational preparation of physical  
686 therapist assistants by the appropriate accrediting agency  
687 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary  
688 Accreditation or the United States Department of Education, at  
689 the time of her or his graduation and have passed to the  
690 satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her or his  
691 fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant as  
692 hereinafter provided;

693 (b) Have been graduated from a school giving a course for  
694 physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have  
695 educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for  
696 the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in



20241600er

697 this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as  
698 identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the  
699 board an examination to determine her or his fitness for  
700 practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter  
701 provided;

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

704 (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,  
705 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state  
706 which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

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

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

712 Section 24. Notwithstanding the changes made to the Florida  
713 Statutes (2023) by this act, a board as defined in s. 456.001,  
714 Florida Statutes, or the Department of Health, as applicable,  
715 may continue processing applications for licensure by  
716 endorsement as authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023)  
717 until the rules adopted by such board or the department to  
718 implement the changes made by this act take effect or until 6  
719 months after the effective date of this act, whichever occurs  
720 first.

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