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1
 2 An act relating to background screenings and
 3 certifications; amending s. 420.621, F.S.; defining
 4 the term "person with lived experience"; creating s.
 5 420.6241, F.S.; providing legislative intent;
 6 providing qualifications for a person seeking
 7 certification as a person with lived experience;
 8 requiring continuum of care lead agencies to submit
 9 certain information to the Department of Children and
 10 Families for purposes of background screening;
 11 providing duties of the department; prescribing
 12 screening requirements; specifying disqualifying
 13 offenses for a person applying for certification;
 14 authorizing a person who does not meet background
 15 screening requirements to apply to the department for
 16 an exemption from disqualification; requiring the
 17 department to accept or reject such application within
 18 a specified time; amending s. 435.04, F.S.; specifying
 19 additional disqualifying offenses under the background
 20 screening requirements for certain persons; amending
 21 s. 435.07, F.S.; revising requirements for exemptions
 22 from disqualification from employment; amending s.
 23 943.0438, F.S.; revising the effective date of a
 24 requirement that independent sanctioning authorities
 25 conduct level 2 background screenings of current and

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26 prospective athletic coaches; amending s. 456.0135,
 27 F.S.; expanding certain background screening
 28 requirements to apply to additional health care
 29 practitioners; providing applicability; requiring
 30 specified health care practitioners licensed before a
 31 specified date to comply with certain background
 32 screening requirements upon their next licensure
 33 renewal that takes place on or after a specified date;
 34 prohibiting the Department of Health from renewing
 35 specified health care practitioner licenses under
 36 certain circumstances beginning on a specified date;
 37 amending ss. 457.105, 463.006, 465.007, 465.0075,
 38 466.006, 466.0067, 466.007, 467.011, 468.1185,
 39 468.1215, 468.1695, 468.209, 468.213, 468.355,
 40 468.358, 468.509, 468.513, 468.803, 478.45, 483.815,
 41 483.901, 483.914, 484.007, 484.045, 486.031, 486.102,
 42 490.005, 490.0051, 490.006, 491.0045, 491.0046,
 43 491.005, and 491.006, F.S.; revising licensure,
 44 registration, or certification requirements, as
 45 applicable, for acupuncturists; optometrists;
 46 pharmacists; pharmacist licenses by endorsement;
 47 dentists; health access dental licenses; dental
 48 hygienists; midwives; speech-language pathologists and
 49 audiologists; speech-language pathology assistants and
 50 audiology assistants; nursing home administrators;

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51 occupational therapists and occupational therapy
 52 assistants; occupational therapist and occupational
 53 therapy assistant licenses by endorsement; respiratory
 54 therapists; respiratory therapist licenses by
 55 endorsement; dietitian/nutritionists;
 56 dietitian/nutritionist licenses by endorsement;
 57 practitioners of orthotics, prosthetics, or
 58 pedorthics; electrologists; clinical laboratory
 59 personnel; medical physicists; genetic counselors;
 60 opticians; hearing aid specialists; physical
 61 therapists; physical therapist assistants;
 62 psychologists and school psychologists; provisional
 63 licenses for psychologists; psychologist and school
 64 psychologist licenses by endorsement; intern
 65 registrations for clinical social work, marriage and
 66 family therapy, and mental health counseling;
 67 provisional licenses for clinical social workers,
 68 marriage and family therapists, and mental health
 69 counselors; clinical social workers, marriage and
 70 family therapists, and mental health counselors; and
 71 clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist,
 72 and mental health counselor licenses by endorsement,
 73 respectively, to include background screening
 74 requirements; making conforming and technical changes;
 75 amending ss. 468.505 and 491.003, F.S.; conforming

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76 cross-references; providing an appropriation;
 77 providing effective dates.

78

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

80

81 Section 1. Effective July 1, 2024, present subsection (6)
 82 of section 420.621, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as
 83 subsection (7), and a new subsection (6) is added to that
 84 section, to read:

85 420.621 Definitions.—As used in ss. 420.621-420.628, the
 86 term:

87 (6) "Person with lived experience" means any person with
 88 current or past experience of homelessness, as defined in 24
 89 C.F.R. s. 578.3, including persons who have accessed or sought
 90 homeless services while fleeing domestic violence.

91 Section 2. Effective July 1, 2024, section 420.6241,
 92 Florida Statutes, is created to read:

93 420.6241 Persons with lived experience.—

94 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature finds that the
 95 ability to provide adequate homeless services is limited due to
 96 a shortage of professionals and paraprofessionals in the field.
 97 Persons with lived experience of homelessness are uniquely
 98 qualified to provide effective support services because they
 99 share common life experiences with the persons they assist. A
 100 person with lived experience may have a criminal history that

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101 prevents him or her from meeting background screening
 102 requirements.

103 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—A person may seek certification as a
 104 person with lived experience if he or she has received homeless
 105 services. A continuum of care lead agency serving the homeless
 106 must include documentation of the homeless services such person
 107 received when requesting a background check of the applicant.

108 (3) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department shall ensure
 109 that an applicant's background screening required to achieve
 110 certification is conducted as provided in subsection (4).

111 (4) BACKGROUND SCREENING.—

112 (a) The background screening conducted under this
 113 subsection must ensure that the qualified applicant has not,
 114 during the preceding 3 years, been arrested for and is not
 115 awaiting final disposition of, has not been found guilty of,
 116 regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere
 117 or guilty to, or has not been adjudicated delinquent and the
 118 record has been sealed or expunged for, any felony.

119 (b) The background screening conducted under this
 120 subsection must ensure that the qualified applicant has not been
 121 arrested for and is not awaiting final disposition of, has not
 122 been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a
 123 plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, or has not been
 124 adjudicated delinquent and the record has been sealed or
 125 expunged for, any offense prohibited under any of the following

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- 126 state laws or similar laws of another jurisdiction:
- 127 1. Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with
- 128 certain developmentally disabled clients and reporting of such
- 129 sexual misconduct.
- 130 2. Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct with
- 131 certain mental health patients and reporting of such sexual
- 132 misconduct.
- 133 3. Section 409.920, relating to Medicaid provider fraud,
- 134 if the offense is a felony of the first or second degree.
- 135 4. Section 415.111, relating to criminal penalties for
- 136 abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- 137 5. Any offense that constitutes domestic violence, as
- 138 defined in s. 741.28.
- 139 6. Section 777.04, relating to attempts, solicitation, and
- 140 conspiracy to commit an offense listed in this paragraph.
- 141 7. Section 782.04, relating to murder.
- 142 8. Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated
- 143 manslaughter of an elderly person or a disabled adult,
- 144 aggravated manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter
- 145 of an officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician,
- 146 or a paramedic.
- 147 9. Section 782.071, relating to vehicular homicide.
- 148 10. Section 782.09, relating to killing of an unborn child
- 149 by injury to the mother.
- 150 11. Chapter 784, relating to assault, battery, and

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- 151 culpable negligence, if the offense is a felony.
- 152 12. Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.
- 153 13. Section 787.02, relating to false imprisonment.
- 154 14. Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a
 155 child.
- 156 15. Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking,
 157 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or
 158 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending
 159 custody proceedings.
- 160 16. Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking,
 161 enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or
 162 concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending
 163 dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse
 164 or neglect of a minor.
- 165 17. Section 790.115(1), relating to exhibiting firearms or
 166 weapons within 1,000 feet of a school.
- 167 18. Section 790.115(2)(b), relating to possessing an
 168 electric weapon or device, a destructive device, or any other
 169 weapon on school property.
- 170 19. Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery.
- 171 20. Former s. 794.041, relating to prohibited acts of
 172 persons in familial or custodial authority.
- 173 21. Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity
 174 with certain minors.
- 175 22. Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation.

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176 23. Section 796.07, relating to procuring another to
 177 commit prostitution, except for those offenses expunged pursuant
 178 to s. 943.0583.

179 24. Section 798.02, relating to lewd and lascivious
 180 behavior.

181 25. Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent
 182 exposure.

183 26. Section 806.01, relating to arson.

184 27. Section 810.02, relating to burglary, if the offense
 185 is a felony of the first degree.

186 28. Section 810.14, relating to voyeurism, if the offense
 187 is a felony.

188 29. Section 810.145, relating to video voyeurism, if the
 189 offense is a felony.

190 30. Section 812.13, relating to robbery.

191 31. Section 812.131, relating to robbery by sudden
 192 snatching.

193 32. Section 812.133, relating to carjacking.

194 33. Section 812.135, relating to home-invasion robbery.

195 34. Section 817.034, relating to communications fraud, if
 196 the offense is a felony of the first degree.

197 35. Section 817.234, relating to false and fraudulent
 198 insurance claims, if the offense is a felony of the first or
 199 second degree.

200 36. Section 817.50, relating to fraudulently obtaining

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- 201 goods or services from a health care provider and false reports
 202 of a communicable disease.
- 203 37. Section 817.505, relating to patient brokering.
- 204 38. Section 817.568, relating to fraudulent use of
 205 personal identification, if the offense is a felony of the first
 206 or second degree.
- 207 39. Section 825.102, relating to abuse, aggravated abuse,
 208 or neglect of an elderly person or a disabled adult.
- 209 40. Section 825.1025, relating to lewd or lascivious
 210 offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person
 211 or a disabled person.
- 212 41. Section 825.103, relating to exploitation of an
 213 elderly person or a disabled adult, if the offense is a felony.
- 214 42. Section 826.04, relating to incest.
- 215 43. Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated
 216 child abuse, or neglect of a child.
- 217 44. Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the
 218 delinquency or dependency of a child.
- 219 45. Former s. 827.05, relating to negligent treatment of
 220 children.
- 221 46. Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a
 222 child.
- 223 47. Section 831.30, relating to fraud in obtaining
 224 medicinal drugs.
- 225 48. Section 831.31, relating to the sale, manufacture,

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226 delivery, or possession with intent to sell, manufacture, or
227 deliver any counterfeit controlled substance, if the offense is
228 a felony.

229 49. Section 843.01, relating to resisting arrest with
230 violence.

231 50. Section 843.025, relating to depriving a law
232 enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer of
233 the means of protection or communication.

234 51. Section 843.12, relating to aiding in an escape.

235 52. Section 843.13, relating to aiding in the escape of
236 juvenile inmates of correctional institutions.

237 53. Chapter 847, relating to obscenity.

238 54. Section 874.05, relating to encouraging or recruiting
239 another to join a criminal gang.

240 55. Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and
241 control, if the offense is a felony of the second degree or
242 greater severity.

243 56. Section 895.03, relating to racketeering and
244 collection of unlawful debts.

245 57. Section 896.101, relating to the Florida Money
246 Laundering Act.

247 58. Section 916.1075, relating to sexual misconduct with
248 certain forensic clients and reporting of such sexual
249 misconduct.

250 59. Section 944.35(3), relating to inflicting cruel or

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251 inhuman treatment on an inmate, resulting in great bodily harm.

252 60. Section 944.40, relating to escape.

253 61. Section 944.46, relating to harboring, concealing, or
 254 aiding an escaped prisoner.

255 62. Section 944.47, relating to introduction of contraband
 256 into a correctional institution.

257 63. Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in
 258 juvenile justice programs.

259 64. Section 985.711, relating to introduction of
 260 contraband into a detention facility.

261 (5) EXEMPTION REQUESTS.—An applicant who desires to become
 262 a certified person with lived experience but is disqualified
 263 under subsection (4) may apply to the department for an
 264 exemption from disqualification under s. 435.07, as applicable.
 265 The department shall accept or reject an application for
 266 exemption within 90 days after receiving the application from
 267 the applicant.

268 Section 3. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (2) of
 269 section 435.04, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 2 of
 270 chapter 2023-220, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

271 435.04 Level 2 screening standards.—

272 (2) The security background investigations under this
 273 section must ensure that persons subject to this section have
 274 not been arrested for and are awaiting final disposition of;~~7~~
 275 have not been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or

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276 entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to it or have not
 277 been adjudicated delinquent and the record has not been sealed
 278 or expunged for, any offense prohibited under any of the
 279 following provisions of state law or similar law of another
 280 jurisdiction:

281 (a) Section 39.205, relating to the failure to report
 282 child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

283 (b) Section 393.135, relating to sexual misconduct with
 284 certain developmentally disabled clients and reporting of such
 285 sexual misconduct.

286 (c) ~~(b)~~ Section 394.4593, relating to sexual misconduct
 287 with certain mental health patients and reporting of such sexual
 288 misconduct.

289 (d) Section 414.39, relating to fraud, if the offense was
 290 a felony.

291 (e) ~~(e)~~ Section 415.111, relating to adult abuse, neglect,
 292 or exploitation of aged persons or disabled adults.

293 (f) ~~(d)~~ Section 777.04, relating to attempts, solicitation,
 294 and conspiracy to commit an offense listed in this subsection.

295 (g) ~~(e)~~ Section 782.04, relating to murder.

296 (h) ~~(f)~~ Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter,
 297 aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult,
 298 or aggravated manslaughter of a child.

299 (i) ~~(g)~~ Section 782.071, relating to vehicular homicide.

300 (j) ~~(h)~~ Section 782.09, relating to killing of an unborn

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301 child by injury to the mother.

302 (k)~~(i)~~ Chapter 784, relating to assault, battery, and
303 culpable negligence, if the offense was a felony.

304 (l)~~(j)~~ Section 784.011, relating to assault, if the victim
305 of the offense was a minor.

306 (m)~~(k)~~ Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault.

307 (n)~~(l)~~ Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim
308 of the offense was a minor.

309 (o)~~(m)~~ Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery.

310 (p)~~(n)~~ Section 784.075, relating to battery on staff of a
311 detention or commitment facility or on a juvenile probation
312 officer.

313 (q)~~(o)~~ Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.

314 (r)~~(p)~~ Section 787.02, relating to false imprisonment.

315 (s)~~(q)~~ Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a
316 child.

317 (t)~~(r)~~ Section 787.04(2), relating to taking, enticing, or
318 removing a child beyond the state limits with criminal intent
319 pending custody proceedings.

320 (u)~~(s)~~ Section 787.04(3), relating to carrying a child
321 beyond the state lines with criminal intent to avoid producing a
322 child at a custody hearing or delivering the child to the
323 designated person.

324 (v) Section 787.06, relating to human trafficking.

325 (w) Section 787.07, relating to human smuggling.

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326 (x)~~(t)~~ Section 790.115(1), relating to exhibiting firearms
327 or weapons within 1,000 feet of a school.

328 (y)~~(u)~~ Section 790.115(2)(b), relating to possessing an
329 electric weapon or device, destructive device, or other weapon
330 on school property.

331 (z)~~(v)~~ Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery.

332 (aa)~~(w)~~ Former s. 794.041, relating to prohibited acts of
333 persons in familial or custodial authority.

334 (bb)~~(x)~~ Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual
335 activity with certain minors.

336 (cc)~~(y)~~ Section 794.08, relating to female genital
337 mutilation.

338 (dd)~~(z)~~ Chapter 796, relating to prostitution.

339 (ee)~~(aa)~~ Section 798.02, relating to lewd and lascivious
340 behavior.

341 (ff)~~(bb)~~ Chapter 800, relating to lewdness and indecent
342 exposure and offenses against students by authority figures.

343 (gg)~~(cc)~~ Section 806.01, relating to arson.

344 (hh)~~(dd)~~ Section 810.02, relating to burglary.

345 (ii)~~(ee)~~ Section 810.14, relating to voyeurism, if the
346 offense is a felony.

347 (jj)~~(ff)~~ Section 810.145, relating to video voyeurism, if
348 the offense is a felony.

349 (kk)~~(gg)~~ Chapter 812, relating to theft, robbery, and
350 related crimes, if the offense is a felony.

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351 (ll)~~(hh)~~ Section 817.563, relating to fraudulent sale of
 352 controlled substances, only if the offense was a felony.

353 (mm)~~(ii)~~ Section 825.102, relating to abuse, aggravated
 354 abuse, or neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult.

355 (nn)~~(jj)~~ Section 825.1025, relating to lewd or lascivious
 356 offenses committed upon or in the presence of an elderly person
 357 or disabled adult.

358 (oo)~~(kk)~~ Section 825.103, relating to exploitation of an
 359 elderly person or disabled adult, if the offense was a felony.

360 (pp)~~(ll)~~ Section 826.04, relating to incest.

361 (qq)~~(mm)~~ Section 827.03, relating to child abuse,
 362 aggravated child abuse, or neglect of a child.

363 (rr)~~(nn)~~ Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the
 364 delinquency or dependency of a child.

365 (ss)~~(oo)~~ Former s. 827.05, relating to negligent treatment
 366 of children.

367 (tt)~~(pp)~~ Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance
 368 by a child.

369 (uu) Section 831.311, relating to the unlawful sale,
 370 manufacture, alteration, delivery, uttering, or possession of
 371 counterfeit-resistant prescription blanks for controlled
 372 substances.

373 (vv) Section 836.10, relating to written or electronic
 374 threats to kill, do bodily injury, or conduct a mass shooting or
 375 an act of terrorism.

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376 (ww)~~(qq)~~ Section 843.01, relating to resisting arrest with
 377 violence.

378 (xx)~~(rr)~~ Section 843.025, relating to depriving a law
 379 enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer
 380 means of protection or communication.

381 (yy)~~(ss)~~ Section 843.12, relating to aiding in an escape.

382 (zz)~~(tt)~~ Section 843.13, relating to aiding in the escape
 383 of juvenile inmates in correctional institutions.

384 (aaa)~~(uu)~~ Chapter 847, relating to obscene literature.

385 (bbb) Section 859.01, relating to poisoning food or water.

386 (ccc) Section 873.01, relating to the prohibition on the
 387 purchase or sale of human organs and tissue.

388 (ddd)~~(vv)~~ Section 874.05, relating to encouraging or
 389 recruiting another to join a criminal gang.

390 (eee)~~(ww)~~ Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention
 391 and control, only if the offense was a felony or if any other
 392 person involved in the offense was a minor.

393 (fff)~~(xx)~~ Section 916.1075, relating to sexual misconduct
 394 with certain forensic clients and reporting of such sexual
 395 misconduct.

396 (ggg)~~(yy)~~ Section 944.35(3), relating to inflicting cruel
 397 or inhuman treatment on an inmate resulting in great bodily
 398 harm.

399 (hhh)~~(zz)~~ Section 944.40, relating to escape.

400 (iii)~~(aaa)~~ Section 944.46, relating to harboring,

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401 concealing, or aiding an escaped prisoner.

402 (jjj)~~(bbb)~~ Section 944.47, relating to introduction of
403 contraband into a correctional facility.

404 (kkk)~~(ccc)~~ Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct
405 in juvenile justice programs.

406 (lll)~~(ddd)~~ Section 985.711, relating to contraband
407 introduced into detention facilities.

408 Section 4. Effective July 1, 2024, subsection (1) of
409 section 435.07, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 3 of
410 chapter 2023-220, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

411 435.07 Exemptions from disqualification.—Unless otherwise
412 provided by law, the provisions of this section apply to
413 exemptions from disqualification for disqualifying offenses
414 revealed pursuant to background screenings required under this
415 chapter, regardless of whether those disqualifying offenses are
416 listed in this chapter or other laws.

417 (1)(a) The head of the appropriate agency or qualified
418 entity may grant to any employee or person with an affiliation
419 otherwise disqualified from employment an exemption from
420 disqualification for:

421 1. Felonies for which at least 2 ~~3~~ years have elapsed
422 since the applicant for the exemption has completed or been
423 lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or nonmonetary
424 condition imposed by the court for the disqualifying felony;

425 2. Misdemeanors prohibited under any of the statutes cited

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426 in this chapter or under similar statutes of other jurisdictions
427 for which the applicant for the exemption has completed or been
428 lawfully released from confinement, supervision, or nonmonetary
429 condition imposed by the court;

430 3. Offenses that were felonies when committed but that are
431 now misdemeanors and for which the applicant for the exemption
432 has completed or been lawfully released from confinement,
433 supervision, or nonmonetary condition imposed by the court; or

434 4. Findings of delinquency. For offenses that would be
435 felonies if committed by an adult and the record has not been
436 sealed or expunged, the exemption may not be granted until at
437 least 3 years have elapsed since the applicant for the exemption
438 has completed or been lawfully released from confinement,
439 supervision, or nonmonetary condition imposed by the court for
440 the disqualifying offense.

441 (b) A person applying for an exemption who was ordered to
442 pay any amount for any fee, fine, fund, lien, ~~civil judgment,~~
443 application, costs of prosecution, trust, or restitution as part
444 of the judgment and sentence for any disqualifying felony or
445 misdemeanor must pay the court-ordered amount in full before he
446 or she is eligible for the exemption.

447
448 For the purposes of this subsection, the term "felonies" means
449 both felonies prohibited under any of the statutes cited in this
450 chapter or under similar statutes of other jurisdictions.

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451 Section 5. Effective July 1, 2024, paragraph (a) of
 452 subsection (2) of section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, as amended
 453 by section 5 of chapter 2023-220, Laws of Florida, is amended to
 454 read:

455 943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning
 456 authorities.—

457 (2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

458 (a) Effective January 1, 2025, conduct a level 2
 459 background screening under s. 435.04 of each current and
 460 prospective athletic coach. The authority may not delegate this
 461 responsibility to an individual team and may not authorize any
 462 person to act as an athletic coach unless a level 2 background
 463 screening is conducted and does not result in disqualification
 464 under paragraph (b).

465 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 456.0135, Florida
 466 Statutes, is amended to read:

467 456.0135 General background screening provisions.—

468 (1) An application for initial licensure received on or
 469 after January 1, 2013, under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter
 470 460, chapter 461, chapter 462, chapter 463, chapter 464, s.
 471 465.007, s. 465.0075, chapter 466, chapter 467, part I, part II,
 472 part III, part V, part X s. 465.022, part XIII, or part XIV of
 473 chapter 468, chapter 478, ~~or~~ chapter 480, chapter 483, chapter
 474 484, chapter 486, chapter 490, or chapter 491 must ~~shall~~ include
 475 fingerprints pursuant to procedures established by the

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476 department through a vendor approved by the Department of Law
477 Enforcement and fees imposed for the initial screening and
478 retention of fingerprints. Fingerprints must be submitted
479 electronically to the Department of Law Enforcement for state
480 processing, and the Department of Law Enforcement shall forward
481 the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for
482 national processing. Each board, or the department if there is
483 no board, must ~~shall~~ screen the results to determine whether ~~if~~
484 an applicant meets licensure requirements. For any subsequent
485 renewal of the applicant's license which ~~that~~ requires a
486 national criminal history check, the department shall request
487 the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the retained
488 fingerprints of the applicant to the Federal Bureau of
489 Investigation unless the fingerprints are enrolled in the
490 national retained print arrest notification program.

491 Section 7. Beginning July 1, 2025, the amendments made by
492 this act to s. 456.0135, Florida Statutes, apply to applicants
493 seeking initial licensure in any of the health care professions
494 specified in that section. To ensure that all health care
495 practitioners practicing in the health care professions subject
496 to the background screening requirements for initial licensure
497 under s. 456.0135, Florida Statutes, as amended by this act, are
498 screened, health care practitioners who were already licensed in
499 such health care professions before July 1, 2025, must submit to
500 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135, Florida

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501 Statutes, by their next licensure renewal that takes place on or
 502 after July 1, 2025, notwithstanding the fact that s. 456.0135,
 503 Florida Statutes, applies to initial licensure only. The
 504 Department of Health may not renew the license of such a health
 505 care practitioner after July 1, 2025, until he or she complies
 506 with these background screening requirements.

507 Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 457.105, Florida
 508 Statutes, as amended by SB 1600, 2024 Regular Session, is
 509 amended to read:

510 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

511 (2) A person may become licensed to practice acupuncture
 512 if the person applies to the department and meets all of the
 513 following criteria:

514 (a) Is 21 years of age or older, has good moral character,
 515 and has the ability to communicate in English, which is
 516 demonstrated by having passed the national written examination
 517 in English or, if such examination was passed in a foreign
 518 language, by also having passed a nationally recognized English
 519 proficiency examination.†

520 (b) Has completed 60 college credits from an accredited
 521 postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrollment in an
 522 authorized 3-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental
 523 medicine, and has completed a 3-year course of study in
 524 acupuncture and oriental medicine, and effective July 31, 2001,
 525 a 4-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental medicine,

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526 | which meets standards established by the board by rule, which
 527 | standards include, but are not limited to, successful completion
 528 | of academic courses in western anatomy, western physiology,
 529 | western pathology, western biomedical terminology, first aid,
 530 | and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). However, any person who
 531 | enrolled in an authorized course of study in acupuncture before
 532 | August 1, 1997, must have completed only a 2-year course of
 533 | study which meets standards established by the board by rule,
 534 | which standards must include, but are not limited to, successful
 535 | completion of academic courses in western anatomy, western
 536 | physiology, and western pathology.†

537 | (c) Has successfully completed a board-approved national
 538 | certification process, meets the requirements for licensure by
 539 | endorsement under s. 456.0145, or passes an examination
 540 | administered by the department, which examination tests the
 541 | applicant's competency and knowledge of the practice of
 542 | acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the request of any
 543 | applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points must ~~shall~~ be
 544 | used in the examination. The examination must ~~shall~~ include a
 545 | practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to
 546 | practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental
 547 | medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and
 548 | procedures.†~~and~~

549 | (d) Pays the required fees set by the board by rule not to
 550 | exceed the following amounts:

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551 1. Examination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant
 552 cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical
 553 portions of the examination from a national organization
 554 approved by the board.

555 2. Application fee: \$300.

556 3. Reexamination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant
 557 cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical
 558 portions of the examination from a national organization
 559 approved by the board.

560 4. Initial biennial licensure fee: \$400, if licensed in
 561 the first half of the biennium, and \$200, if licensed in the
 562 second half of the biennium.

563 (e) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
 564 456.0135.

565 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 463.006, Florida
 566 Statutes, is amended to read:

567 463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.—

568 (1) Any person desiring to be a licensed practitioner
 569 under ~~pursuant to~~ this chapter must apply to the department,
 570 submit to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135,
 571 and ~~must~~ submit proof to the department that she or he meets all
 572 of the following criteria:

573 (a) Has completed the application forms as required by the
 574 board, remitted an application fee for certification not to
 575 exceed \$250, remitted an examination fee for certification not

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576 to exceed \$250, and remitted an examination fee for licensure
 577 not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

578 (b) Is at least 18 years of age.

579 (c) Has graduated from an accredited school or college of
 580 optometry approved by rule of the board.

581 (d) Is of good moral character.

582 (e) Has successfully completed at least 110 hours of
 583 transcript-quality coursework and clinical training in general
 584 and ocular pharmacology as determined by the board, at an
 585 institution that:

586 1. Has facilities for both didactic and clinical
 587 instructions in pharmacology; and

588 2. Is accredited by a regional or professional accrediting
 589 organization that is recognized and approved by the Commission
 590 on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United
 591 States Department of Education.

592 (f) Has completed at least 1 year of supervised experience
 593 in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of
 594 the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the
 595 optometric experience.

596 Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 465.007, Florida
 597 Statutes, is amended to read:

598 465.007 Licensure by examination.—

599 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a pharmacist
 600 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination.

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601 The department shall examine each applicant who the board
 602 certifies has met all of the following criteria:

603 (a) Completed the application form and remitted an
 604 examination fee set by the board not to exceed \$100 plus the
 605 actual per applicant cost to the department for purchase of
 606 portions of the examination from the National Association of
 607 Boards of Pharmacy or a similar national organization. The fees
 608 authorized under this section shall be established in sufficient
 609 amounts to cover administrative costs.

610 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 611 s. 456.0135.

612 (c)~~(b)~~ Submitted satisfactory proof that she or he is not
 613 less than 18 years of age and:

614 1. Is a recipient of a degree from a school or college of
 615 pharmacy accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and
 616 approved by the United States Office of Education; or

617 2. Is a graduate of a 4-year undergraduate pharmacy
 618 program of a school or college of pharmacy located outside the
 619 United States, has demonstrated proficiency in English by
 620 passing both the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
 621 and the Test of Spoken English (TSE), has passed the Foreign
 622 Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination that is approved by
 623 rule of the board, and has completed a minimum of 500 hours in a
 624 supervised work activity program within this state under the
 625 supervision of a pharmacist licensed by the department, which

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626 program is approved by the board.

627 (d)~~(e)~~ Submitted satisfactory proof that she or he has
628 completed an internship program approved by the board. No such
629 board-approved program shall exceed 2,080 hours, all of which
630 may be obtained prior to graduation.

631 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 465.0075, Florida
632 Statutes, as amended by SB 1600, 2024 Regular Session, is
633 amended to read:

634 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—The
635 department shall issue a license by endorsement to any applicant
636 who, upon applying to the department, submitting to background
637 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135, and remitting a
638 nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed
639 \$100, the board certifies has met the requirements for licensure
640 by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

641 Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
642 466.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

643 466.006 Examination of dentists.—

644 (1)

645 (b)1. Any person desiring to be licensed as a dentist
646 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examinations
647 and shall verify the information required on the application by
648 oath. The application must ~~shall~~ include two recent photographs.
649 There shall be an application fee set by the board not to exceed
650 \$100 which shall be nonrefundable and. ~~There shall also be an~~

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651 examination fee set by the board, ~~which shall~~ not to exceed \$425
 652 plus the actual per applicant cost to the department for
 653 purchase of some or all of the examination from the American
 654 Board of Dental Examiners or its successor entity, if any,
 655 provided the board finds the successor entity's clinical
 656 examination complies with ~~the provisions of~~ this section. The
 657 examination fee may be refunded ~~refundable~~ if the applicant is
 658 found ineligible to take the examinations.

659 2. Applicants for licensure must also submit to background
 660 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

661 Section 13. Section 466.0067, Florida Statutes, is amended
 662 to read:

663 466.0067 Application for health access dental license.—The
 664 Legislature finds that there is an important state interest in
 665 attracting dentists to practice in underserved health access
 666 settings in this state and further, that allowing out-of-state
 667 dentists who meet certain criteria to practice in health access
 668 settings without the supervision of a dentist licensed in this
 669 state is substantially related to achieving this important state
 670 interest. Therefore, notwithstanding the requirements of s.
 671 466.006, the board shall grant a health access dental license to
 672 practice dentistry in this state in health access settings as
 673 defined in s. 466.003 to an applicant who meets all of the
 674 following criteria:

675 (1) Files an appropriate application approved by the

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676 board.†

677 (2) Pays an application license fee for a health access
 678 dental license, laws-and-rule exam fee, and an initial licensure
 679 fee. The fees specified in this subsection may not differ from
 680 an applicant seeking licensure pursuant to s. 466.006.†

681 (3) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 682 with s. 456.0135 and has not been convicted of or pled nolo
 683 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or
 684 misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care
 685 profession.†

686 (4) Submits proof of graduation from a dental school
 687 accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the
 688 American Dental Association or its successor agency.†

689 (5) Submits documentation that she or he has completed, or
 690 will obtain before licensure, continuing education equivalent to
 691 this state's requirement for dentists licensed under s. 466.006
 692 for the last full reporting biennium before applying for a
 693 health access dental license.†

694 (6) Submits proof of her or his successful completion of
 695 parts I and II of the dental examination by the National Board
 696 of Dental Examiners and a state or regional clinical dental
 697 licensing examination that the board has determined effectively
 698 measures the applicant's ability to practice safely.†

699 (7) Currently holds a valid, active dental license in good
 700 standing which has not been revoked, suspended, restricted, or

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701 otherwise disciplined from another of the United States, the
 702 District of Columbia, or a United States territory.†

703 (8) Has never had a license revoked from another of the
 704 United States, the District of Columbia, or a United States
 705 territory.†

706 (9) Has never failed the examination specified in s.
 707 466.006, unless the applicant was reexamined pursuant to s.
 708 466.006 and received a license to practice dentistry in this
 709 state.†

710 (10) Has not been reported to the National Practitioner
 711 Data Bank, unless the applicant successfully appealed to have
 712 his or her name removed from the data bank.†

713 (11) Submits proof that he or she has been engaged in the
 714 active, clinical practice of dentistry providing direct patient
 715 care for 5 years immediately preceding the date of application,
 716 or in instances when the applicant has graduated from an
 717 accredited dental school within the preceding 5 years, submits
 718 proof of continuous clinical practice providing direct patient
 719 care since graduation.† ~~and~~

720 (12) Has passed an examination covering the laws and rules
 721 of the practice of dentistry in this state as described in s.
 722 466.006(4)(a).

723 Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 466.007, Florida
 724 Statutes, is amended to read:

725 466.007 Examination of dental hygienists.—

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726 (1) (a) Any person desiring to be licensed as a dental
 727 hygienist shall apply to the department to take the licensure
 728 examinations and shall verify the information required on the
 729 application by oath. The application must ~~shall~~ include two
 730 recent photographs of the applicant. There shall be a
 731 nonrefundable application fee set by the board not to exceed
 732 \$100 and an examination fee set by the board ~~which shall~~ not to
 733 exceed ~~be more than~~ \$225. The examination fee may be refunded if
 734 the applicant is found ineligible to take the examinations.

735 (b) Applicants for licensure must also submit to
 736 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

737 Section 15. Subsection (5) is added to section 467.011,
 738 Florida Statutes, to read:

739 467.011 Licensed midwives; qualifications; examination.—
 740 The department shall issue a license to practice midwifery to an
 741 applicant who meets all of the following criteria:

742 (5) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
 743 456.0135.

744 Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 468.1185, Florida
 745 Statutes, is amended to read:

746 468.1185 Licensure.—

747 (2) The board shall certify for licensure any applicant
 748 who has met all of the following criteria:

749 (a) Satisfied the education and supervised clinical
 750 requirements of s. 468.1155.

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751 (b) Satisfied the professional experience requirement of
752 s. 468.1165.

753 (c) Passed the licensure examination required by s.
754 468.1175.

755 (d) For an applicant for an audiologist license who has
756 obtained a doctoral degree in audiology, has satisfied the
757 education and supervised clinical requirements of paragraph (a)
758 and the professional experience requirements of paragraph (b).

759 (e) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
760 s. 456.0135.

761 Section 17. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.1215,
762 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

763 468.1215 Speech-language pathology assistant and audiology
764 assistant; certification.—

765 (1) The department shall issue a certificate as a speech-
766 language pathology assistant to each applicant who the board
767 certifies has met all of the following criteria:

768 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the
769 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

770 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
771 s. 456.0135.

772 (c) ~~(b)~~ Earned a bachelor's degree from a college or
773 university accredited by a regional association of colleges and
774 schools recognized by the Department of Education which includes
775 at least 24 semester hours of coursework as approved by the

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776 board at an institution accredited by an accrediting agency
 777 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

778 (2) The department shall issue a certificate as an
 779 audiology assistant to each applicant who the board certifies
 780 has met all of the following criteria:

781 (a) Completed the application form and remitted the
 782 required fees, including a nonrefundable application fee.

783 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 784 s. 456.0135.

785 (c) ~~(b)~~ Earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

786 Section 18. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of
 787 section 468.1695, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 788 subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection
 789 (2) is added to that section, and present subsection (2) of that
 790 section is amended, to read:

791 468.1695 Licensure by examination.—

792 (2) Applicants for licensure must also submit to
 793 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

794 (3) ~~(2)~~ The department shall examine each applicant who the
 795 board certifies has completed the application form, submitted to
 796 background screening, and remitted an examination fee set by the
 797 board not to exceed \$250 and who:

798 (a)1. Holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited
 799 college or university and majored in health care administration,
 800 health services administration, or an equivalent major, or has

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801 credit for at least 60 semester hours in subjects, as prescribed
 802 by rule of the board, which prepare the applicant for total
 803 management of a nursing home; and

804 2. Has fulfilled the requirements of a college-affiliated
 805 or university-affiliated internship in nursing home
 806 administration or of a 1,000-hour nursing home administrator-in-
 807 training program prescribed by the board; or

808 (b)1. Holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited
 809 college or university; and

810 2.a. Has fulfilled the requirements of a 2,000-hour
 811 nursing home administrator-in-training program prescribed by the
 812 board; or

813 b. Has 1 year of management experience allowing for the
 814 application of executive duties and skills, including the
 815 staffing, budgeting, and directing of resident care, dietary,
 816 and bookkeeping departments within a skilled nursing facility,
 817 hospital, hospice, assisted living facility with a minimum of 60
 818 licensed beds, or geriatric residential treatment program and,
 819 if such experience is not in a skilled nursing facility, has
 820 fulfilled the requirements of a 1,000-hour nursing home
 821 administrator-in-training program prescribed by the board.

822 Section 19. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.209,
 823 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

824 468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

825 (1) An applicant applying for a license as an occupational

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826 therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant shall apply to
 827 the department on forms furnished by the department. The
 828 department shall license each applicant who the board certifies
 829 meets all of the following criteria:

830 (a) Has completed the file a written application form and
 831 remitted, accompanied by the application for licensure fee
 832 prescribed in s. 468.221.

833 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 834 with s. 456.0135., on forms provided by the department, showing
 835 to the satisfaction of the board that she or he:

836 (c)-(a) Is of good moral character.

837 (d)-(b) Has successfully completed the academic
 838 requirements of an educational program in occupational therapy
 839 recognized by the board, with concentration in biologic or
 840 physical science, psychology, and sociology, and with education
 841 in selected manual skills. Such a program shall be accredited by
 842 the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation
 843 Council for Occupational Therapy Education, or its successor.

844 (e)-(c) Has successfully completed a period of supervised
 845 fieldwork experience at a recognized educational institution or
 846 a training program approved by the educational institution where
 847 she or he met the academic requirements. For an occupational
 848 therapist, a minimum of 6 months of supervised fieldwork
 849 experience is required. For an occupational therapy assistant, a
 850 minimum of 2 months of supervised fieldwork experience is

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851 required.

852 (f)~~(d)~~ Has passed an examination conducted or adopted by
853 the board as provided in s. 468.211.

854 (2) An applicant who has practiced as a state-licensed or
855 American Occupational Therapy Association-certified occupational
856 therapy assistant for 4 years and who, before January 24, 1988,
857 completed a minimum of 24 weeks of supervised occupational-
858 therapist-level fieldwork experience may take the examination to
859 be licensed as an occupational therapist without meeting the
860 educational requirements for occupational therapists made
861 otherwise applicable under paragraph (1) (d) ~~(1) (b)~~.

862 Section 20. Subsection (3) is added to section 468.213,
863 Florida Statutes, to read:

864 468.213 Licensure by endorsement.—

865 (3) Applicants for licensure by endorsement under s.
866 456.0145 must submit to background screening in accordance with
867 s. 456.0135.

868 Section 21. Section 468.355, Florida Statutes, is amended
869 to read:

870 468.355 Licensure requirements.—To be eligible for
871 licensure by the board, an applicant must be an active
872 "certified respiratory therapist" or an active "registered
873 respiratory therapist" as designated by the National Board for
874 Respiratory Care, or its successor, and submit to background
875 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

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876 Section 22. Subsection (4) of section 468.358, Florida
 877 Statutes, is amended to read:

878 468.358 Licensure by endorsement.—

879 (4) Applicants for licensure ~~shall not be granted~~ by
 880 endorsement under as provided in this section must submit
 881 ~~without the submission of~~ a proper application, remit and the
 882 ~~payment of~~ the requisite application fee, and submit to
 883 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135 fees
 884 ~~therefor.~~

885 Section 23. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of
 886 section 468.509, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 887 subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection
 888 (2) is added to that section, and present subsection (2) of that
 889 section is amended, to read:

890 468.509 Dietitian/nutritionist; requirements for
 891 licensure.—

892 (2) Applicants for licensure must also submit to
 893 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

894 ~~(3)(2)~~ The department shall examine any applicant who the
 895 board certifies has completed the application form, submitted to
 896 background screening, and remitted the application and
 897 examination fees specified in s. 468.508 and who:

898 (a)1. Possesses a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate
 899 degree with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and
 900 nutrition, dietetics, or food management, or an equivalent major

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901 course of study, from a school or program accredited, at the
 902 time of the applicant's graduation, by the appropriate
 903 accrediting agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition
 904 of Postsecondary Accreditation and the United States Department
 905 of Education; and

906 2. Has completed a preprofessional experience component of
 907 not less than 900 hours or has education or experience
 908 determined to be equivalent by the board; or

909 (b)1. Has an academic degree, from a foreign country, that
 910 has been validated by an accrediting agency approved by the
 911 United States Department of Education as equivalent to the
 912 baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree conferred by a
 913 regionally accredited college or university in the United
 914 States;

915 2. Has completed a major course of study in human
 916 nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics, or food management;
 917 and

918 3. Has completed a preprofessional experience component of
 919 not less than 900 hours or has education or experience
 920 determined to be equivalent by the board.

921 Section 24. Section 468.513, Florida Statutes, as amended
 922 by SB 1600, 2024 Regular Session, is amended to read:

923 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—
 924 The department shall issue a license to practice dietetics and
 925 nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who submits to

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926 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135 and meets
 927 the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145,
 928 upon receipt of a completed application and the fee specified in
 929 s. 468.508.

930 Section 25. Subsection (2) of section 468.803, Florida
 931 Statutes, is amended to read:

932 468.803 License, registration, and examination
 933 requirements.—

934 (2) An applicant for registration, examination, or
 935 licensure must apply to the department on a form prescribed by
 936 the board for consideration of board approval. Each initial
 937 applicant shall submit fingerprints to the department in
 938 accordance with s. 456.0135 and any other procedures specified
 939 by the department for state and national criminal history checks
 940 of the applicant. The board shall screen the results to
 941 determine if an applicant meets licensure requirements. The
 942 board shall consider for examination, registration, or licensure
 943 each applicant whom the board verifies meets all of the
 944 following criteria:

945 (a) Has submitted the completed application and completed
 946 the fingerprinting requirements and has paid the applicable
 947 application fee, not to exceed \$500. The application fee is
 948 nonrefundable. ~~†~~

949 (b) Is of good moral character. ~~†~~

950 (c) Is 18 years of age or older. ~~† and~~

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951 (d) Has completed the appropriate educational preparation.
 952 Section 26. Subsection (1) of section 478.45, Florida
 953 Statutes, is amended to read:

954 478.45 Requirements for licensure.—

955 (1) An applicant applying for licensure as an
 956 electrologist shall apply to the department on forms furnished
 957 by the department. The department shall license each applicant
 958 who the board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

959 (a) Has completed the ~~file a written~~ application form and
 960 ~~remitted, accompanied by~~ the application for licensure fee
 961 prescribed in s. 478.55.

962 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 963 with s. 456.0135., ~~on a form provided by the board, showing to~~
 964 ~~the satisfaction of the board that the applicant:~~

965 (c)~~(a)~~ Is at least 18 years old.

966 (d)~~(b)~~ Is of good moral character.

967 (e)~~(e)~~ Possesses a high school diploma or a high school
 968 equivalency diploma.

969 (f)~~(d)~~ Has not committed an act in any jurisdiction which
 970 would constitute grounds for disciplining an electrologist in
 971 this state.

972 (g)~~(e)~~ Has successfully completed the academic
 973 requirements of an electrolysis training program, not to exceed
 974 120 hours, and the practical application thereof as approved by
 975 the board.

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976 Section 27. Section 483.815, Florida Statutes, is amended
 977 to read:

978 483.815 Application for clinical laboratory personnel
 979 license.—An application for a clinical laboratory personnel
 980 license shall be made under oath on forms provided by the
 981 department and shall be accompanied by payment of fees as
 982 provided by this part. Applicants for licensure must also submit
 983 to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. A
 984 license may be issued authorizing the performance of procedures
 985 of one or more categories.

986 Section 28. Present paragraphs (b) through (k) of
 987 subsection (4) of section 483.901, Florida Statutes, are
 988 redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (l), respectively, a new
 989 paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of
 990 that subsection is amended, to read:

991 483.901 Medical physicists; definitions; licensure.—

992 (4) LICENSE REQUIRED.—An individual may not engage in the
 993 practice of medical physics, including the specialties of
 994 diagnostic radiological physics, therapeutic radiological
 995 physics, medical nuclear radiological physics, or medical health
 996 physics, without a license issued by the department for the
 997 appropriate specialty.

998 (a) The department shall adopt rules to administer this
 999 section which specify license application and renewal fees,
 1000 continuing education requirements, background screening

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1001 requirements, and standards for practicing medical physics. The
 1002 department shall require a minimum of 24 hours per biennium of
 1003 continuing education offered by an organization approved by the
 1004 department. The department may adopt rules to specify continuing
 1005 education requirements for persons who hold a license in more
 1006 than one specialty.

1007 (b) Applicants for a medical physicist license must submit
 1008 to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

1009 Section 29. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 483.914,
 1010 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1011 483.914 Licensure requirements.—

1012 (2) The department shall issue a license, valid for 2
 1013 years, to each applicant who meets all of the following
 1014 criteria:

1015 (a) Has completed an application.

1016 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 1017 with s. 456.0135.

1018 (c)~~(b)~~ Is of good moral character.

1019 (d)~~(c)~~ Provides satisfactory documentation of having
 1020 earned:

1021 1. A master's degree from a genetic counseling training
 1022 program or its equivalent as determined by the Accreditation
 1023 Council of Genetic Counseling or its successor or an equivalent
 1024 entity; or

1025 2. A doctoral degree from a medical genetics training

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1026 program accredited by the American Board of Medical Genetics and
 1027 Genomics or the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists.

1028 (e)~~(d)~~ Has passed the examination for certification as:

1029 1. A genetic counselor by the American Board of Genetic
 1030 Counseling, Inc., the American Board of Medical Genetics and
 1031 Genomics, or the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors; or

1032 2. A medical or clinical geneticist by the American Board
 1033 of Medical Genetics and Genomics or the Canadian College of
 1034 Medical Geneticists.

1035 (3) The department may issue a temporary license for up to
 1036 2 years to an applicant who meets all requirements for licensure
 1037 except for the certification examination requirement imposed
 1038 under paragraph (2)(e) ~~(2)(d)~~ and is eligible to sit for that
 1039 certification examination.

1040 Section 30. Present paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of
 1041 subsection (1) of section 484.007, Florida Statutes, as amended
 1042 by SB 1600, 2024 Regular Session, are redesignated as paragraphs
 1043 (c), (d), and (e), respectively, and a new paragraph (b) is
 1044 added to that subsection, to read:

1045 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical
 1046 establishments.—

1047 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply
 1048 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a
 1049 licensure examination. The department shall examine each
 1050 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following

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1051 criteria:

1052 (b) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.

1053 456.0135.

1054 Section 31. Subsection (2) of section 484.045, Florida

1055 Statutes, is amended to read:

1056 484.045 Licensure by examination.—

1057 (2) The department shall license each applicant who the

1058 board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

1059 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted the

1060 required fees.

1061 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance

1062 with s. 456.0135.

1063 (c)~~(b)~~ Is of good moral character.

1064 (d)~~(e)~~ Is 18 years of age or older.

1065 (e)~~(d)~~ Is a graduate of an accredited high school or its

1066 equivalent.

1067 (f)1.~~(e)1.~~ Has met the requirements of the training

1068 program; or

1069 2.a. Has a valid, current license as a hearing aid

1070 specialist or its equivalent from another state and has been

1071 actively practicing in such capacity for at least 12 months; or

1072 b. Is currently certified by the National Board for

1073 Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences and has been

1074 actively practicing for at least 12 months.

1075 (g)~~(f)~~ Has passed an examination, as prescribed by board

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1076 rule.

1077 (h)~~(g)~~ Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of
 1078 the board, knowledge of state laws and rules relating to the
 1079 fitting and dispensing of prescription hearing aids.

1080 Section 32. Subsection (1) of section 486.031, Florida
 1081 Statutes, as amended by SB 1600 and SB 7016, 2024 Regular
 1082 Session, is amended to read:

1083 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements;
 1084 exemption.—

1085 (1) To be eligible for licensing as a physical therapist,
 1086 an applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1087 (a) Be at least 18 years old.;

1088 (b) Be of good moral character.; ~~and~~

1089 (c)1. Have graduated from a school of physical therapy
 1090 which has been approved for the educational preparation of
 1091 physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency
 1092 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or
 1093 its successor or the United States Department of Education at
 1094 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the
 1095 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination
 1096 before 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to
 1097 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 1098 therapist under this chapter;

1099 2. Have received a diploma from a program in physical
 1100 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials

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1101 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational
 1102 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as
 1103 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,
 1104 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination
 1105 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 1106 therapist under this chapter; or

1107 3. Be entitled to licensure by endorsement or without
 1108 examination as provided in s. 486.081.

1109 (d) Have submitted to background screening in accordance
 1110 with s. 456.0135.

1111 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 486.102, Florida
 1112 Statutes, as amended by SB 1600 and SB 7016, 2024 Regular
 1113 Session, is amended to read:

1114 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing
 1115 requirements; exemption.—

1116 (1) To be eligible for licensing by the board as a
 1117 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must meet all of the
 1118 following criteria:

1119 (a) Be at least 18 years old.~~;~~

1120 (b) Be of good moral character.~~;~~~~and~~

1121 (c)1. Have graduated from a school providing a course of
 1122 at least 2 years for physical therapist assistants, which has
 1123 been approved for the educational preparation of physical
 1124 therapist assistants by the appropriate accrediting agency
 1125 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or

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1126 | its successor or the United States Department of Education, at
 1127 | the time of her or his graduation and have passed to the
 1128 | satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her or his
 1129 | fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant under
 1130 | this chapter;

1131 | 2. Have graduated from a school providing a course for
 1132 | physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have
 1133 | educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for
 1134 | the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in
 1135 | this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as
 1136 | identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the
 1137 | board an examination to determine her or his fitness for
 1138 | practice as a physical therapist assistant under this chapter;

1139 | 3. Be entitled to licensure by endorsement as provided in
 1140 | s. 486.107; or

1141 | 4. Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,
 1142 | 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state
 1143 | which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

1144 | a. ~~Have graduated or be eligible to graduate from such~~
 1145 | ~~school no later than July 1, 2018; and~~

1146 | b. Have passed to the satisfaction of the board an
 1147 | examination to determine his or her fitness for practice as a
 1148 | physical therapist assistant as provided in s. 486.104.

1149 | (d) Have submitted to background screening in accordance
 1150 | with s. 456.0135.

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1151 Section 34. Present paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of
 1152 subsection (1) of section 490.005, Florida Statutes, are
 1153 redesignated as paragraphs (c), (d), and (e), respectively, a
 1154 new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and subsection
 1155 (2) of that section is amended, to read:

1156 490.005 Licensure by examination.—

1157 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a psychologist
 1158 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination.
 1159 The department shall license each applicant whom the board
 1160 certifies has met all of the following requirements:

1161 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1162 s. 456.0135.

1163 (2) Any person desiring to be licensed as a school
 1164 psychologist shall apply to the department to take the licensure
 1165 examination. The department shall license each applicant who the
 1166 department certifies has met all of the following requirements:

1167 (a) Satisfactorily completed the application form and
 1168 submitted a nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$250 and
 1169 an examination fee sufficient to cover the per applicant cost to
 1170 the department for development, purchase, and administration of
 1171 the examination, but not to exceed \$250 as set by department
 1172 rule.

1173 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1174 s. 456.0135.

1175 (c)-(b) Submitted satisfactory proof to the department that

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1176 | the applicant:

1177 | 1. Has received a doctorate, specialist, or equivalent
 1178 | degree from a program primarily psychological in nature and has
 1179 | completed 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
 1180 | study, in areas related to school psychology as defined by rule
 1181 | of the department, from a college or university which at the
 1182 | time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was accredited by
 1183 | an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the Council for
 1184 | Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or
 1185 | from an institution that is a member in good standing with the
 1186 | Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

1187 | 2. Has had a minimum of 3 years of experience in school
 1188 | psychology, 2 years of which must be supervised by an individual
 1189 | who is a licensed school psychologist or who has otherwise
 1190 | qualified as a school psychologist supervisor, by education and
 1191 | experience, as set forth by rule of the department. A doctoral
 1192 | internship may be applied toward the supervision requirement.

1193 | 3. Has passed an examination provided by the department.

1194 | Section 35. Present paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection
 1195 | (1) of section 490.0051, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 1196 | paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, and a new paragraph (b) is
 1197 | added to that subsection, to read:

1198 | 490.0051 Provisional licensure; requirements.—

1199 | (1) The department shall issue a provisional psychology
 1200 | license to each applicant whom the board certifies has met all

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1201 of the following criteria:

1202 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1203 s. 456.0135.

1204 Section 36. Subsection (1) of section 490.006, Florida
 1205 Statutes, as amended by SB 1600, 2024 Regular Session, is
 1206 amended to read:

1207 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

1208 (1) The department shall license a person as a
 1209 psychologist or school psychologist who, upon applying to the
 1210 department, submitting to background screening in accordance
 1211 with s. 456.0135, and remitting the appropriate fee,
 1212 demonstrates to the department or, in the case of psychologists,
 1213 to the board that the applicant meets the requirements for
 1214 licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

1215 Section 37. Subsections (1), (2), (4), and (6) of section
 1216 491.0045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1217 491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

1218 (1) An individual who has not satisfied the postgraduate
 1219 or post-master's level experience requirements, as specified in
 1220 s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or~~
 1221 ~~(4)(e),~~ must register as an intern in the profession for which
 1222 he or she is seeking licensure before commencing the post-
 1223 master's experience requirement or an individual who intends to
 1224 satisfy part of the required graduate-level practicum,
 1225 internship, or field experience, outside the academic arena for

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1226 any profession, and must register as an intern in the profession
 1227 for which he or she is seeking licensure before commencing the
 1228 practicum, internship, or field experience.

1229 (2) The department shall register as a clinical social
 1230 worker intern, marriage and family therapist intern, or mental
 1231 health counselor intern each applicant who the board certifies
 1232 has met all of the following criteria:

1233 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a
 1234 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 1235 board rule. ~~†~~

1236 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1237 s. 456.0135.

1238 (c) ~~(b)~~ 1. Completed the education requirements as specified
 1239 in s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e),~~
 1240 ~~or (4)(e)~~ for the profession for which he or she is applying for
 1241 licensure, if needed; and

1242 2. Submitted an acceptable supervision plan, as determined
 1243 by the board, for meeting the practicum, internship, or field
 1244 work required for licensure that was not satisfied in his or her
 1245 graduate program.

1246 (d) ~~(e)~~ Identified a qualified supervisor.

1247 (4) An individual who fails to comply with this section
 1248 may not be granted a license under this chapter, and any time
 1249 spent by the individual completing the experience requirement as
 1250 specified in s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s.~~

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1251 ~~491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), or (4)(e)~~ before registering as an intern
 1252 does not count toward completion of the requirement.

1253 (6) Any registration issued after March 31, 2017, expires
 1254 60 months after the date it is issued. The board may make a one-
 1255 time exception to the requirements of this subsection in
 1256 emergency or hardship cases, as defined by board rule, if the
 1257 candidate has passed the theory and practice examination
 1258 described in s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), and (4)(e) ~~s.~~
 1259 ~~491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), and (4)(d)~~.

1260 Section 38. Subsection (2) of section 491.0046, Florida
 1261 Statutes, is amended to read:

1262 491.0046 Provisional license; requirements.—

1263 (2) The department shall issue a provisional clinical
 1264 social worker license, provisional marriage and family therapist
 1265 license, or provisional mental health counselor license to each
 1266 applicant who the board certifies has met all of the following
 1267 criteria:

1268 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a
 1269 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$100, as set by
 1270 board rule. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

1271 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1272 s. 456.0135.

1273 (c) ~~(b)~~ Earned a graduate degree in social work, a graduate
 1274 degree with a major emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a
 1275 closely related field, or a graduate degree in a major related

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1276 to the practice of mental health counseling. ~~;~~ and
 1277 (d)~~(e)~~ Met the following minimum coursework requirements:
 1278 1. For clinical social work, a minimum of 15 semester
 1279 hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required by s.
 1280 491.005(1)(c)2.b. ~~s. 491.005(1)(b)2.b.~~
 1281 2. For marriage and family therapy, 10 of the courses
 1282 required by s. 491.005(3)(c) ~~s. 491.005(3)(b)~~, as determined by
 1283 the board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of
 1284 the course credits must have been completed in the area of
 1285 marriage and family systems, theories, or techniques.
 1286 3. For mental health counseling, a minimum of seven of the
 1287 courses required under s. 491.005(4)(c)1.a., b., or c. ~~s.~~
 1288 ~~491.005(4)(b)1.a.-c.~~
 1289 Section 39. Subsections (1) through (4) of section
 1290 491.005, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 1291 491.005 Licensure by examination.—
 1292 (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of
 1293 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 1294 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a clinical
 1295 social worker to an applicant whom the board certifies has met
 1296 all of the following criteria:
 1297 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.
 1298 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1299 s. 456.0135.
 1300 (c)~~(b)~~1. Received a doctoral degree in social work from a

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1301 graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant
 1302 graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by
 1303 the United States Department of Education or received a master's
 1304 degree in social work from a graduate school of social work
 1305 which at the time the applicant graduated:

1306 a. Was accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;

1307 b. Was accredited by the Canadian Association for Social
 1308 Work Education; or

1309 c. Has been determined to have been a program equivalent
 1310 to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by
 1311 the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on
 1312 Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program
 1313 at a university or college outside of the United States or
 1314 Canada must present documentation of the equivalency
 1315 determination from the council in order to qualify.

1316 2. The applicant's graduate program emphasized direct
 1317 clinical patient or client health care services, including, but
 1318 not limited to, coursework in clinical social work, psychiatric
 1319 social work, medical social work, social casework,
 1320 psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's graduate
 1321 program must have included all of the following coursework:

1322 a. A supervised field placement which was part of the
 1323 applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during
 1324 which the applicant provided clinical services directly to
 1325 clients.

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1326 b. Completion of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in
1327 theory of human behavior and practice methods as courses in
1328 clinically oriented services, including a minimum of one course
1329 in psychopathology, and no more than one course in research,
1330 taken in a school of social work accredited or approved pursuant
1331 to subparagraph 1.

1332 3. If the course title which appears on the applicant's
1333 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the
1334 coursework, the applicant provided additional documentation,
1335 including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description
1336 published for the course.

1337 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical social work
1338 experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a
1339 graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the
1340 accreditation requirements of this section, under the
1341 supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the
1342 equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the
1343 board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to
1344 satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant
1345 to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's
1346 graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct
1347 clinical patient or client health care services as described in
1348 subparagraph (c)2. ~~(b)2.~~, the supervised experience requirement
1349 must take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of
1350 15 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework

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1351 required. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
 1352 clinical social work experience requirement. A licensed mental
 1353 health professional must be on the premises when clinical
 1354 services are provided by a registered intern in a private
 1355 practice setting.

1356 (e)~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
 1357 by board rule.

1358 (f)~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
 1359 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
 1360 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
 1361 health counseling.

1362 (2) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—

1363 (a) Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ paragraph (1)(c)
 1364 ~~(1)(b)~~, coursework which was taken at a baccalaureate level
 1365 shall not be considered toward completion of education
 1366 requirements for licensure unless an official of the graduate
 1367 program certifies in writing on the graduate school's stationery
 1368 that a specific course, which students enrolled in the same
 1369 graduate program were ordinarily required to complete at the
 1370 graduate level, was waived or exempted based on completion of a
 1371 similar course at the baccalaureate level. If this condition is
 1372 met, the board shall apply the baccalaureate course named toward
 1373 the education requirements.

1374 (b) An applicant from a master's or doctoral program in
 1375 social work which did not emphasize direct patient or client

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1376 services may complete the clinical curriculum content
 1377 requirement by returning to a graduate program accredited by the
 1378 Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of
 1379 Schools of Social Work, or to a clinical social work graduate
 1380 program with comparable standards, in order to complete the
 1381 education requirements for examination. However, a maximum of 6
 1382 semester or 9 quarter hours of the clinical curriculum content
 1383 requirement may be completed by credit awarded for independent
 1384 study coursework as defined by board rule.

1385 (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of
 1386 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 1387 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a marriage
 1388 and family therapist to an applicant whom the board certifies
 1389 has met all of the following criteria:

1390 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

1391 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1392 s. 456.0135.

1393 (c)1. Attained one of the following:

1394 a. A minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family
 1395 therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on
 1396 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

1397 b. A minimum of a master's degree with a major emphasis in
 1398 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field from a
 1399 university program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of
 1400 Counseling and Related Educational Programs and graduate courses

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1401 approved by the board.

1402 c. A minimum of a master's degree with an emphasis in
 1403 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field, with a
 1404 degree conferred before September 1, 2027, from an
 1405 institutionally accredited college or university and graduate
 1406 courses approved by the board.

1407 2. If the course title that appears on the applicant's
 1408 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the
 1409 coursework, the applicant provided additional documentation,
 1410 including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description
 1411 published for the course. The required master's degree must have
 1412 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the
 1413 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an
 1414 institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for
 1415 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or
 1416 was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an
 1417 institution of higher education located outside the United
 1418 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled
 1419 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard
 1420 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of
 1421 training of those institutions in the United States which are
 1422 accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by
 1423 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor
 1424 organization. Such foreign education and training must have been
 1425 received in an institution or program of higher education

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1426 | officially recognized by the government of the country in which
1427 | it is located as an institution or program to train students to
1428 | practice as professional marriage and family therapists or
1429 | psychotherapists. The applicant has the burden of establishing
1430 | that the requirements of this provision have been met, and the
1431 | board shall require documentation, such as an evaluation by a
1432 | foreign equivalency determination service, as evidence that the
1433 | applicant's graduate degree program and education were
1434 | equivalent to an accredited program in this country. An
1435 | applicant with a master's degree from a program that did not
1436 | emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete the
1437 | coursework requirement in a training institution fully
1438 | accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and
1439 | Family Therapy Education recognized by the United States
1440 | Department of Education.

1441 | (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience
1442 | during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients were
1443 | receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must be at
1444 | the post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed
1445 | marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of
1446 | experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as
1447 | determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
1448 | in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
1449 | register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If
1450 | a graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in

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1451 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field which did
1452 not include all of the coursework required by paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~,
1453 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience may not
1454 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of 10 of
1455 the courses required by paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~, as determined by the
1456 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the
1457 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage
1458 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 years
1459 of required experience, the applicant shall provide direct
1460 individual, group, or family therapy and counseling to cases
1461 including those involving unmarried dyads, married couples,
1462 separating and divorcing couples, and family groups that include
1463 children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
1464 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
1465 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
1466 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1467 (e) ~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
1468 by board rule.

1469 (f) ~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
1470 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
1471 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
1472 health counseling.

1473
1474 For the purposes of dual licensure, the department shall license
1475 as a marriage and family therapist any person who meets the

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1476 requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure may not
 1477 exceed those stated in this subsection.

1478 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of
 1479 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 1480 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a mental
 1481 health counselor to an applicant whom the board certifies has
 1482 met all of the following criteria:

1483 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

1484 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1485 s. 456.0135.

1486 (c)~~(b)~~1. Attained a minimum of an earned master's degree
 1487 from a mental health counseling program accredited by the
 1488 Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related
 1489 Educational Programs which consists of at least 60 semester
 1490 hours or 80 quarter hours of clinical and didactic instruction,
 1491 including a course in human sexuality and a course in substance
 1492 abuse. If the master's degree is earned from a program related
 1493 to the practice of mental health counseling which is not
 1494 accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling
 1495 and Related Educational Programs, then the coursework and
 1496 practicum, internship, or fieldwork must consist of at least 60
 1497 semester hours or 80 quarter hours and meet all of the following
 1498 requirements:

1499 a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of
 1500 graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester

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1501 hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of
 1502 the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and
 1503 practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment
 1504 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and
 1505 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and
 1506 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social
 1507 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,
 1508 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental
 1509 health counseling. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation
 1510 work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied
 1511 toward this requirement.

1512 b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of
 1513 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,
 1514 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current
 1515 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American
 1516 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
 1517 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the
 1518 common core curricular experience.

1519 c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least
 1520 700 hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical practicum,
 1521 internship, or field experience that includes at least 280 hours
 1522 of direct client services, as required in the accrediting
 1523 standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
 1524 Related Educational Programs for mental health counseling
 1525 programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy the post-

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1526 | master's clinical experience requirement.

1527 | 2. Provided additional documentation if a course title

1528 | that appears on the applicant's transcript does not clearly

1529 | identify the content of the coursework. The documentation must

1530 | include, but is not limited to, a syllabus or catalog

1531 | description published for the course.

1532 |

1533 | Education and training in mental health counseling must have

1534 | been received in an institution of higher education that, at the

1535 | time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an

1536 | institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for

1537 | Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or

1538 | was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an

1539 | institution of higher education located outside the United

1540 | States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled

1541 | and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard

1542 | of training substantially equivalent to the standards of

1543 | training of those institutions in the United States which are

1544 | accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by

1545 | the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor

1546 | organization. Such foreign education and training must have been

1547 | received in an institution or program of higher education

1548 | officially recognized by the government of the country in which

1549 | it is located as an institution or program to train students to

1550 | practice as mental health counselors. The applicant has the

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1551 | burden of establishing that the requirements of this provision
 1552 | have been met, and the board shall require documentation, such
 1553 | as an evaluation by a foreign equivalency determination service,
 1554 | as evidence that the applicant's graduate degree program and
 1555 | education were equivalent to an accredited program in this
 1556 | country. Beginning July 1, 2025, an applicant must have a
 1557 | master's degree from a program that is accredited by the Council
 1558 | for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational
 1559 | Programs, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation
 1560 | Council, or an equivalent accrediting body which consists of at
 1561 | least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours to apply for
 1562 | licensure under this paragraph.

1563 | (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience
 1564 | in mental health counseling, which must be at the post-master's
 1565 | level under the supervision of a licensed mental health
 1566 | counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as
 1567 | determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
 1568 | in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
 1569 | register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If
 1570 | a graduate has a master's degree with a major related to the
 1571 | practice of mental health counseling which did not include all
 1572 | the coursework required under sub-subparagraphs (c)1.a and b.
 1573 | ~~(b)1.a. and b.~~, credit for the post-master's level clinical
 1574 | experience may not commence until the applicant has completed a
 1575 | minimum of seven of the courses required under sub-subparagraphs

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1576 (c)1.a and b. ~~(b)1.a. and b.~~, as determined by the board, one of
 1577 which must be a course in psychopathology or abnormal
 1578 psychology. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
 1579 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
 1580 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
 1581 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1582 (e)~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
 1583 by board rule.

1584 (f)~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
 1585 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
 1586 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
 1587 health counseling.

1588 Section 40. Subsection (1) of section 491.006, Florida
 1589 Statutes, as amended by SB 1600, 2024 Regular Session, is
 1590 amended to read:

1591 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

1592 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to
 1593 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon
 1594 applying to the department, submitting to background screening
 1595 in accordance with s. 456.0135, and remitting the appropriate
 1596 fee, demonstrates to the board that he or she meets the
 1597 requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

1598 Section 41. Paragraphs (d), (f), and (i) of subsection (1)
 1599 of section 468.505, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1600 468.505 Exemptions; exceptions.—

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1601 (1) Nothing in this part may be construed as prohibiting
 1602 or restricting the practice, services, or activities of:

1603 (d) A person pursuing a course of study leading to a
 1604 degree in dietetics and nutrition from a program or school
 1605 accredited pursuant to s. 468.509(3) ~~s. 468.509(2)~~, if the
 1606 activities and services constitute a part of a supervised course
 1607 of study and if the person is designated by a title that clearly
 1608 indicates the person's status as a student or trainee.

1609 (f) Any dietitian or nutritionist from another state
 1610 practicing dietetics or nutrition incidental to a course of
 1611 study when taking or giving a postgraduate course or other
 1612 course of study in this state, provided such dietitian or
 1613 nutritionist is licensed in another jurisdiction or is a
 1614 registered dietitian or holds an appointment on the faculty of a
 1615 school accredited pursuant to s. 468.509(3) ~~s. 468.509(2)~~.

1616 (i) An educator who is in the employ of a nonprofit
 1617 organization approved by the council; a federal, state, county,
 1618 or municipal agency, or other political subdivision; an
 1619 elementary or secondary school; or an accredited institution of
 1620 higher education the definition of which, as provided in s.
 1621 468.509(3) ~~s. 468.509(2)~~, applies to other sections of this
 1622 part, insofar as the activities and services of the educator are
 1623 part of such employment.

1624 Section 42. Subsections (15), (16), and (17) of section
 1625 491.003, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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1626 491.003 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

1627 (15) "Registered clinical social worker intern" means a
 1628 person registered under this chapter who is completing the
 1629 postgraduate clinical social work experience requirement
 1630 specified in s. 491.005(1)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e)~~.

1631 (16) "Registered marriage and family therapist intern"
 1632 means a person registered under this chapter who is completing
 1633 the post-master's clinical experience requirement specified in
 1634 s. 491.005(3)(d) ~~s. 491.005(3)(e)~~.

1635 (17) "Registered mental health counselor intern" means a
 1636 person registered under this chapter who is completing the post-
 1637 master's clinical experience requirement specified in s.
 1638 491.005(4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(4)(e)~~.

1639 Section 43. Effective July 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025
 1640 fiscal year, the sum of \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds from the
 1641 Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund is appropriated to the
 1642 Department of Health to implement the provisions of this act.

1643 Section 44. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
 1644 act and except for this section, which shall take effect July 1,
 1645 2024, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.