

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to health care practitioner  
3           identification; amending s. 456.003, F.S.; revising  
4           legislative findings; amending s. 456.072, F.S.;  
5           revising grounds for disciplinary action against  
6           health care practitioners; requiring the Department of  
7           Health, rather than each applicable board, to adopt  
8           rules for certain requirements relating to the  
9           identification and advertisement of licensure and  
10          qualifications of health care practitioners; creating  
11          s. 456.65, F.S.; prohibiting the use of specified  
12          titles and designations by health care practitioners  
13          not licensed as physicians or osteopathic physicians,  
14          as applicable, with an exception; providing that the  
15          use of such titles and designations constitutes the  
16          unlicensed practice of medicine or osteopathic  
17          medicine, as applicable; authorizing the department to  
18          pursue specified remedies for such violations;  
19          authorizing health care practitioners to use names and  
20          titles, and their corresponding designations and  
21          initials, authorized by their respective practice  
22          acts; specifying the manner in which health care  
23          practitioners may represent their specialty practice  
24          areas; specifying titles and abbreviations certain  
25          health care practitioners may use; providing

26 construction; amending ss. 458.3312 and 459.0152,  
 27 F.S.; specifying specialist titles and designations  
 28 that physicians and osteopathic physicians,  
 29 respectively, are prohibited from using unless they  
 30 have received formal recognition by the appropriate  
 31 recognizing agency for such specialty certifications;  
 32 authorizing the Board of Medicine and the Board of  
 33 Osteopathic Medicine, as applicable, to adopt certain  
 34 rules; providing an effective date.

35

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

37

38 **Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 456.003, Florida**  
 39 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

40 456.003 Legislative intent; requirements.—

41 (2) The Legislature further finds ~~believes~~ that such  
 42 professions must ~~shall~~ be regulated only for the preservation of  
 43 the health, safety, and welfare of the public under the police  
 44 powers of the state, and that the health, safety, and welfare of  
 45 the public may be harmed or endangered by the unlawful practice  
 46 of a profession; by a misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent  
 47 representation relating to a person's authority to practice a  
 48 profession lawfully; or when patients are uninformed about the  
 49 profession under which a health care practitioner is practicing  
 50 before receiving professional consultation or services from the

51 practitioner. As a matter of great public importance, such  
 52 professions ~~shall~~ must be regulated when:

53 (a) Their unregulated practice can harm or endanger the  
 54 health, safety, and welfare of the public, and when the  
 55 potential for such harm is recognizable and clearly outweighs  
 56 any anticompetitive impact which may result from regulation.

57 (b) The public is not effectively protected by other  
 58 means, including, but not limited to, other state statutes,  
 59 local ordinances, or federal legislation.

60 (c) Less restrictive means of regulation are not  
 61 available.

62 **Section 2. Paragraph (t) of subsection (1) of section**  
 63 **456.072, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (2) of**  
 64 **that section is republished, to read:**

65 456.072 Grounds for discipline; penalties; enforcement.—

66 (1) The following acts shall constitute grounds for which  
 67 the disciplinary actions specified in subsection (2) may be  
 68 taken:

69 (t) Failing to identify the name of a health care  
 70 practitioner through ~~written notice, which may include the~~  
 71 ~~wearing of a name tag or embroidered identification that also~~  
 72 ~~includes the professional, or orally to a patient the type of~~  
 73 ~~license and professional degree issued to the practitioner. If~~  
 74 ~~wearing a name tag or embroidered identification is not~~  
 75 ~~feasible, the practitioner must provide written notice of such~~

76 information under which the practitioner is practicing. Any  
 77 advertisement for health care services naming the practitioner  
 78 must identify the professional type of license and professional  
 79 degree the practitioner holds and may not contain deceptive or  
 80 misleading information, including, but not limited to, any  
 81 affirmative communication or representation that misstates,  
 82 falsely describes, holds out, or falsely details the health care  
 83 practitioner's skills, training, expertise, education, public or  
 84 private board certification, or licensure. This paragraph only  
 85 applies ~~does not apply~~ to a practitioner while the practitioner  
 86 is providing services in a facility licensed under ~~chapter 394,~~  
 87 ~~chapter 395, chapter 400, or chapter 429.~~ Each board, or The  
 88 department shall ~~where there is no board,~~ is authorized by rule  
 89 ~~to~~ determine how health care ~~its~~ practitioners must ~~may~~ comply  
 90 with this disclosure requirement.

91 **Section 3. Section 456.65, Florida Statutes, is created to**  
 92 **read:**

93 456.65 Specialties.—

94 (1) (a) A health care practitioner not licensed as a  
 95 physician under chapter 458 may not hold himself or herself out  
 96 to a patient or the public at large as a specialist by  
 97 describing himself or herself or his or her practice through the  
 98 use of any specialist title or designation specifically listed  
 99 under s. 458.3312(2), either alone or in combination, or in  
 100 connection with other words, unless the practitioner is

101 authorized to use such specialist title or designation under  
102 subsection (2).

103 (b) A health care practitioner not licensed as a physician  
104 under chapter 459 may not hold himself or herself out to a  
105 patient or the public at large as a specialist by describing  
106 himself or herself or his or her practice through the use of any  
107 specialist title or designation specifically listed under s.  
108 459.0152(2), either alone or in combination, or in connection  
109 with other words, unless the practitioner is authorized to use  
110 such specialist title or designation under subsection (2).

111 (c) A violation of paragraph (a) or paragraph (b)  
112 constitutes the unlicensed practice of medicine or osteopathic  
113 medicine, as applicable, and the department may pursue remedies  
114 under s. 456.065 for such violation.

115 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1):

116 (a) A licensed health care practitioner may use the name  
117 or title of his or her profession which is authorized under his  
118 or her practice act, and any corresponding designations or  
119 initials so authorized, to describe himself or herself and his  
120 or her practice.

121 (b) A licensed health care practitioner who has a  
122 specialty area of practice authorized under his or her practice  
123 act may use the following format to identify himself or herself  
124 or describe his or her practice: "... (name or title of the  
125 practitioner's profession) ..., specializing in ... (name of the

126 practitioner's specialty)...."

127 (c) A chiropractic physician licensed under chapter 460  
128 may use the title "chiropractic radiologist" and other titles,  
129 abbreviations, or designations authorized under his or her  
130 practice act reflecting those chiropractic specialty areas in  
131 which the chiropractic physician has attained diplomate status  
132 as recognized by the American Chiropractic Association, the  
133 International Chiropractors Association, the International  
134 Academy of Clinical Neurology, or the International Chiropractic  
135 Pediatric Association.

136 (d) A podiatric physician licensed under chapter 461 may  
137 use the following titles and abbreviations as applicable to his  
138 or her license, specialty, and certification: "podiatric  
139 surgeon," "Fellow in the American College of Foot and Ankle  
140 Surgeons," and any other titles or abbreviations authorized  
141 under his or her practice act.

142 (e) A dentist licensed under chapter 466 may use the  
143 following titles and abbreviations as applicable to his or her  
144 license, specialty, and certification: "doctor of dental  
145 surgery," "D.D.S.," "oral surgeon," "maxillofacial surgeon,"  
146 "oral and maxillofacial surgeon," "O.M.S.," "dental  
147 anesthesiologist," "oral pathologist," "oral radiologist," and  
148 any other titles or abbreviations authorized under his or her  
149 practice act.

150 (f) An anesthesiologist assistant licensed under chapter

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151 458 or chapter 459 may use only the titles "anesthesiologist  
152 assistant" or "certified anesthesiologist assistant" and the  
153 abbreviation "C.A.A."

154 (3) This section may not be construed to prohibit or  
155 interfere with a licensed practitioner's ability to bill  
156 lawfully the Medicare program or other federal health care  
157 program using definitions or terminology provided under  
158 applicable federal law or regulations for services rendered to a  
159 patient enrolled in such program.

160 **Section 4. Section 458.3312, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
161 **to read:**

162 458.3312 Specialties.—

163 (1) A physician licensed under this chapter may not hold  
164 himself or herself out as a board-certified specialist unless  
165 the physician has received formal recognition as a specialist  
166 from a specialty board of the American Board of Medical  
167 Specialties or other recognizing agency that has been approved  
168 by the board. However, a physician may indicate the services  
169 offered and may state that his or her practice is limited to one  
170 or more types of services when this accurately reflects the  
171 scope of practice of the physician.

172 (2) Specialist titles and designations that are subject to  
173 subsection (1) include:

174 (a) Surgeon.

175 (b) Neurosurgeon.

- 176 |       (c) General surgeon.
- 177 |       (d) Anesthesiologist.
- 178 |       (e) Cardiologist.
- 179 |       (f) Dermatologist.
- 180 |       (g) Endocrinologist.
- 181 |       (h) Gastroenterologist.
- 182 |       (i) Gynecologist.
- 183 |       (j) Hematologist.
- 184 |       (k) Hospitalist.
- 185 |       (l) Intensivist.
- 186 |       (m) Internist.
- 187 |       (n) Laryngologist.
- 188 |       (o) Nephrologist.
- 189 |       (p) Neurologist.
- 190 |       (q) Obstetrician.
- 191 |       (r) Oncologist.
- 192 |       (s) Ophthalmologist.
- 193 |       (t) Orthopedic surgeon.
- 194 |       (u) Orthopedist.
- 195 |       (v) Otologist.
- 196 |       (w) Otolaryngologist.
- 197 |       (x) Otorhinolaryngologist.
- 198 |       (y) Pathologist.
- 199 |       (z) Pediatrician.
- 200 |       (aa) Proctologist.



201        (bb) Psychiatrist.

202        (cc) Radiologist.

203        (dd) Rheumatologist.

204        (ee) Rhinologist.

205        (ff) Urologist.

206        (3) The board may adopt by rule additional specialist  
 207 titles and designations that are subject to subsection (1).

208        **Section 5. Section 459.0152, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
 209 **to read:**

210        459.0152 Specialties.—

211        (1) An osteopathic physician licensed under this chapter  
 212 may not hold himself or herself out as a board-certified  
 213 specialist unless the osteopathic physician has successfully  
 214 completed the requirements for certification by the American  
 215 Osteopathic Association or the Accreditation Council on Graduate  
 216 Medical Education and is certified as a specialist by a  
 217 certifying agency approved by the board. However, an osteopathic  
 218 physician may indicate the services offered and may state that  
 219 his or her practice is limited to one or more types of services  
 220 when this accurately reflects the scope of practice of the  
 221 osteopathic physician.

222        (2) Specialist titles and designations that are subject to  
 223 subsection (1) include:

224        (a) Surgeon.

225        (b) Neurosurgeon.

- 226 |       (c) General surgeon.
- 227 |       (d) Anesthesiologist.
- 228 |       (e) Cardiologist.
- 229 |       (f) Dermatologist.
- 230 |       (g) Endocrinologist.
- 231 |       (h) Gastroenterologist.
- 232 |       (i) Gynecologist.
- 233 |       (j) Hematologist.
- 234 |       (k) Hospitalist.
- 235 |       (l) Intensivist.
- 236 |       (m) Internist.
- 237 |       (n) Laryngologist.
- 238 |       (o) Nephrologist.
- 239 |       (p) Neurologist.
- 240 |       (q) Obstetrician.
- 241 |       (r) Oncologist.
- 242 |       (s) Ophthalmologist.
- 243 |       (t) Orthopedic surgeon.
- 244 |       (u) Orthopedist.
- 245 |       (v) Otologist.
- 246 |       (w) Otolaryngologist.
- 247 |       (x) Otorhinolaryngologist.
- 248 |       (y) Pathologist.
- 249 |       (z) Pediatrician.
- 250 |       (aa) Proctologist.

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251        (bb) Psychiatrist.  
252        (cc) Radiologist.  
253        (dd) Rheumatologist.  
254        (ee) Rhinologist.  
255        (ff) Urologist.  
256        (3) The board may adopt by rule additional specialist  
257 titles and designations that are subject to subsection (1).  
258        **Section 6.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.