

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 1347](#)

TITLE: Clinical Laboratory Personnel

SPONSOR(S): Gerwig

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: [SB 878](#) (Yarborough)

Committee References

[Health Professions & Programs](#)

16 Y, 0 N



[Health & Human Services](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

HB 1347 revises current Florida requirements for performing moderate or high complexity laboratory testing by adopting federal clinical laboratory personnel qualifications as the minimum licensure requirements for clinical laboratory technologists and technicians to perform such testing.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill is expected to have an insignificant, negative fiscal impact on the Department of Health.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill revises current Florida requirements for performing moderate or high complexity laboratory testing by adopting federal clinical laboratory personnel qualifications as the minimum licensure requirements for clinical laboratory technologists and technicians to perform such testing.

The bill provides that all applicants for licensure as [technologists](#) that satisfy the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) training and education requirements for [high complexity testing](#), and all applicants for licensure as a [technician](#) that satisfy the federal CLIA training and education requirements for [moderate complexity testing](#) now meet the minimum qualifications for licensure to perform moderate and high complexity testing in this state. This eliminates state specific regulations for various specialty licensure categories and may result in greater interstate mobility for technologists and technicians. (Sections [1](#) and [2](#))

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026. (Section [3](#))

RULEMAKING:

DOH will have to update rules related to licensure qualifications for clinical laboratory technologists and technicians.

Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STORAGE NAME: h1347a.HPP

DATE: 2/4/2026

STATE GOVERNMENT:

According to DOH, the bill will have a negative fiscal impact of \$55,680 in non-recurring funds for DOH to update its Licensing and Enforcement Information Database System (LEIDS) and its online service portal (Versa Online).¹

RELEVANT INFORMATION**SUBJECT OVERVIEW:****Clinical Laboratory Personnel**

A clinical laboratory is a facility in which human specimen is tested to provide information or materials for use in the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of a disease or the identification or assessment of a medical or physical condition.² Services performed in clinical labs include the examination of:³

- Fluids or other materials taken from the human body;
- Tissue taken from the human body; and
- Cells from individual tissues or fluid taken from the human body.

The Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel (Board) within the Department of Health (DOH) oversees the licensure and regulation of clinical laboratory personnel, including directors, supervisors, technologists, and technicians.⁴ Licensure requirements for clinical laboratory personnel include completion of a medical technology training program,⁵ completion of applicable education requirements, and passage of an exam designated by the Board.⁶ The Board is authorized to collect fees for initial licensure, licensure renewal, examinations and reexaminations, and providers of laboratory training programs and for trainees of laboratory training programs.⁷

The Board is responsible for approving clinical laboratory training programs in hospitals or clinical laboratories.⁸ Any person who completes a training program must also pass an examination provided by DOH.⁹

The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), within the United States Department of Health and Human Services, regulates all laboratory testing performed on humans in the United States through the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA).¹⁰ The CLIA define a clinical laboratory as any facility that examines materials derived from the human body for the purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of any disease or impairment of, or the assessment of the health of, human

¹ Florida Department of Health, Agency Analysis of 2026 HB 1347, December 15, 2025.

² S. [483.803\(2\), F.S.](#)

³ *Id.*

⁴ S. [483.805, F.S.](#)

⁵ S. [483.111, F.S.](#), and rule 64B3-3.001, F.A.C., authorize the Board to approve clinical laboratory training programs and requires approved training programs to: designate space and laboratory equipment for proper training of students; maintain a file on each student which contains a completed application, evidence of high school graduation or completion of college courses, attendance records, grades, instructor evaluations of laboratory practice, the trainee's registration, and a copy of the student's certificate of completion or official transcript; maintain current examinations and laboratory evaluation instruments utilized by the program; provide students with a certificate or letter of graduation or a transcript indicating the degree granted. Certificates or letters of graduation must be signed by the program director; include instruction in human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; include instruction on the prevention of medical errors, which shall include root-cause analysis, error reduction and prevention, and patient safety; include course objectives, course descriptions, course outlines, assessment of outcomes, student evaluation; utilize educational resources for teaching the affective, cognitive, and psychomotor domains; employ systematic procedures for assessing learning outcomes in the affective, cognitive, and psychomotor domains; have a practicum in a clinical laboratory where current laboratory procedures, instrumentation, and diversity of specimens are available for a variety of analyses and are in sufficient quantity to provide competent training; and include instruction on Florida laws and rules governing clinical laboratories and clinical laboratory personnel.

⁶ S. [483.809, F.S.](#)

⁷ S. [483.807, F.S.](#)

⁸ S. [483.811\(4\), F.S.](#)

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ 42 C.F.R. § 493.

beings. Any facility that meets this definition must have the appropriate CLIA certificate to perform laboratory tests. If a facility is only collecting specimens, a CLIA certificate is not required.

The CLIA categorizes laboratory tests into one of three categories based on complexity — waived tests, tests of [moderate complexity](#), and tests of [high complexity](#).¹¹ Waived tests are simple tests with a low risk for an incorrect result. Clinical laboratory tests are assigned a moderate complexity or high complexity category on the basis of seven criteria.¹² Tests are assigned a score of 1 to 3 for each of the seven criteria. A test with a score of 12 or less is categorized as moderate complexity, while those with a score above 12 are categorized as high complexity.

Technologists

All applicants for licensure as a technologist must satisfy the federal CLIA requirements for high complexity testing, which require the applicant to:¹³

- Be a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, or podiatric medicine; or
- Have earned a doctoral, master's, or bachelor's degree in a chemical, physical, biological or clinical laboratory science, or medical technology from an accredited institution; or
- Have earned an associate degree in a laboratory science or medical laboratory technology from an accredited institution, or have education and training that is equivalent and includes:
 - At least 60 semester hours, or equivalent, from an accredited institution that, at a minimum, include either 24 semester hours of medical laboratory technology courses or 24 semester hours of science courses; and
 - Either completion of a clinical laboratory training program approved or accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools or the Committee on Allied Health Education and

¹¹ 42 C.F.R. § 493.5.

¹² 42 C.F.R. § 493.17. The seven criteria are as follows:

1 - Knowledge Score 1. (A) Minimal scientific and technical knowledge is required to perform the test; and (B) Knowledge required to perform the test may be obtained through on-the-job instruction.

Score 3. Specialized scientific and technical knowledge is essential to perform preanalytic, analytic or postanalytic phases of the testing.

2 - Training and experience Score 1. (A) Minimal training is required for preanalytic, analytic and postanalytic phases of the testing process; and (B) Limited experience is required to perform the test.

Score 3. (A) Specialized training is essential to perform the preanalytic, analytic or postanalytic testing process; or Substantial experience may be necessary for analytic test performance.

3 - Reagents and materials preparation Score 1. (A) Reagents and materials are generally stable and reliable; and (B) Reagents and materials are prepackaged, or premeasured, or require no special handling, precautions or storage conditions.

Score 3. (A) Reagents and materials may be labile and may require special handling to assure reliability; or (B) Reagents and materials preparation may include manual steps such as gravimetric or volumetric measurements.

4 - Characteristics of operational steps Score 1. Operational steps are either automatically executed (such as pipetting, temperature monitoring, or timing of steps), or are easily controlled.

Score 3. Operational steps in the testing process require close monitoring or control, and may require special specimen preparation, precise temperature control or timing of procedural steps, accurate pipetting, or extensive calculations.

5 - Calibration, quality control, and proficiency testing materials Score 1. (A) Calibration materials are stable and readily available; (B) Quality control materials are stable and readily available; and (C) External proficiency testing materials, when available, are stable.

Score 3. (A) Calibration materials, if available, may be labile; (B) Quality control materials may be labile, or not available; or (C) External proficiency testing materials, if available, may be labile.

6 - Test system troubleshooting and equipment maintenance Score 1. (A) Test system troubleshooting is automatic or self-correcting, or clearly described or requires minimal judgment; and (B) Equipment maintenance is provided by the manufacturer, is seldom needed, or can easily be performed. Score 3. (A) Troubleshooting is not automatic and requires decision-making and direct intervention to resolve most problems; or (B) Maintenance requires special knowledge, skills, and abilities.

7 - Interpretation and judgment Score 1. (A) Minimal interpretation and judgment are required to perform preanalytic, analytic and postanalytic processes; and (B) Resolution of problems requires limited independent interpretation and judgment.

Score 3. (A) Extensive independent interpretation and judgment are required to perform the preanalytic, analytic or postanalytic processes; and (B) Resolution of problems requires extensive interpretation and judgment.

Note: A score of 2 will be assigned to a criteria heading when the characteristics for a particular test are intermediate between the descriptions listed for scores of 1 and 3.

¹³ Rule 64B3-5.003(2), F.A.C., and 42 C.F.R. § 493.1489.

Accreditation (CAHEA). Or have at least three months of documented laboratory training in each specialty in which the individual performs high complexity testing.

Current Board rules require a technologist to comply with additional education and training requirements and obtain specialty category technologist licensure in order to perform certain high complexity testing.¹⁴ The specialist categories of technologist licensure include: generalist technologist (which includes the specialties of microbiology, serology/immunology, clinical chemistry, hematology, and immunohematology); blood banking specialist; cytology specialist; cytogenetics specialist; molecular pathology specialist; andrology and embryology specialists; histology specialist; and histocompatibility specialist.

Specialty Categories of Technologist Licensure

Generalist Technologist License

Licensure as a generalist technologist includes the specialties of microbiology, serology/immunology, clinical chemistry, hematology, and immunohematology. The education, training, and certification requirements for licensure as a generalist technologist include the following:¹⁵

- A bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory, chemical, or biological science; and
- A clinical laboratory training program approved by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS); and
- Certification as a medical laboratory scientist (MLS) or a medical technologist (MT); and
- Pass an examination (the National Registry of Certified Chemists or the national certifying body categorical examinations in a single discipline specialty area.

Or:

- A bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory, chemical, biological science, or a bachelor's degree with 24 semester hours of academic science including six semester hours of biological sciences and six semester hours of chemical sciences; and
- A clinical laboratory training program, or three years pertinent clinical laboratory experience with a minimum of six months in each specialty for which licensure is sought; and
- Certification as a MLS or a MT; and
- Pass an examination (the National Registry of Certified Chemists or the national certifying body categorical examinations in a single discipline specialty area.

Or:

- 90 semester hours of college credit with 24 semester hours of academic science, including six semester hours of biological sciences and six semester hours of chemical sciences; and
- A clinical laboratory training program; and
- Certification as a MLS or a MT; and
- Pass a MT examination or a specialist examination in a single discipline specialty area.

Or:

- An associate degree with six semester hours academic biological sciences and six semester hours of academic chemical sciences; and
- A clinical laboratory training program; and

¹⁴ Rule 64B3-5.003(3), F.A.C.

¹⁵ Rule 64B3-5.003(3)(a), F.A.C.

- Certification as a MLS or a MT; and
- Pass a MT examination and a specialist examination in a single discipline specialty area.

Or:

- An associate degree with six semester hours of academic biological sciences and six semester hours of academic chemical sciences; and
- A clinical laboratory training program offered by the Department of Defense; or
 - Five years of pertinent clinical laboratory experience with one year of experience in each specialty area for which licensure is sought; and
- Pass a MT examination and a specialist examination in a single discipline specialty area.

Blood Banking Specialist

A blood banking specialist must:¹⁶

- Have a bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory, or chemical or biological science; and
- Have a clinical laboratory training program approved by the NAACLS; and
- Be certified in blood banking or as a MLS, MT, or a specialist in blood banking (SBB).

Or:

- Have a bachelor's degree in medical technology with 24 semester hours of academic science, six semester hours of biological science, and six semester hours of chemical science; and
- Be trained as required by the applicable certifying body; and
- Be certified in blood banking or as a MLS, MT, or a SBB.

Or:

- Have a bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory, or chemical or biological science, or a bachelors degree with 24 semester hours of academic science, six semester hours of biological science, and six semester hours of chemical science; and
- Have three years of pertinent clinical laboratory experience; or
 - A clinical laboratory training program; and
- Be certified in blood banking or as a MLS, MT, or a SBB.

Cytogenetics Specialist

A cytogenetics specialist must have a bachelor's degree with 30 hours of academic science and complete a board approved training program in cytogenetics at the technologist level or one year of pertinent clinical laboratory experience in cytogenetics. They must also be certified by the ASCP.¹⁷

Molecular Pathology Specialist

A molecular pathology specialist must:¹⁸

- Have a bachelor's degree with 16 semester hours of academic science; and
- Complete training as required by the applicable certifying body; and

¹⁶ Rule 64B3-5.003(3)(b), F.A.C.

¹⁷ Rule 64B3-5.003(3)(d), F.A.C.

¹⁸ Rule 64B3-5.003(3)(e), F.A.C.

- Be certified by the ASCP, the American Association of Bioanalysts, the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, or the American Medical Technologists.

Or:

- Meet education standards as required by the applicable certifying body; and
- Have one year of pertinent clinical laboratory experience in molecular pathology; and
- Be certified by the ASCP, the American Association of Bioanalysts (AAB), the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics, or the American Medical Technologists.

Andrology and Embryology Specialists

Andrology and embryology specialists must:¹⁹

- Have a bachelor's degree with 24 semester hours of academic science, six semester hours of academic biological science, and six semester hours of academic chemical science; and
- Complete training as required by the AAB; and
- Be certified by the AAB; and
- Pass the AAB examination.

Or:

- Have an associate degree with six semester hours of academic biological science and six semester hours of academic chemical science; and
- Complete training as required by the AAB; and
- Be certified by the AAB; and
- Pass the AAB examination.

Histology Specialist

A histology specialist must:²⁰

- Have an associate degree; and
- Complete a histotechnology training program approved by the NAACLS; and
- Be certified by the ASCP.

Or:

- Meet education standards as required by the ASCP; and
- Complete training as required by the ASCP; and
- Be certified by the ASCP.

Or:

- Have 60 semester hours with 12 hours of chemical or biological science; and
- Complete a board approved training program; and
- Be certified by the ASCP.

Or:

¹⁹ Rule 64B3-5.003(3)(f), F.A.C.

²⁰ Rule 64B3-5.003(3)(g), F.A.C.

- Meet education standards as required by the ASCP; and
- Have three years of pertinent experience as a Florida licensed histology technician or equivalent; and
- Be certified by the ASCP.

Or:

- Meet education standards a required by the ASCP; and
- Have five years of pertinent experience and 48 contact hours of continuing education in immunohistochemistry or advanced histologic techniques; and
- Be certified by the ASCP.

Or:

- Meet education standards as required by the ASCP; and
- Have five years of pertinent experience, 48 contact hours of continuing education in immunohistochemistry or advanced histologic techniques, and be a Florida licensed technician in the specialty of histology.

Histocompatibility Specialist

A histocompatibility specialist must be certified by the American Board of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ABHI). To become certified, they must meet the education and training/experience standards of the ABHI.²¹

Technicians

Clinical laboratory technicians are similar to technologists but they can only perform moderate complexity tests, unless they meet the minimum qualifications for high complexity testing. Such a technician may perform high complexity testing only when under the direct supervision of a licensed technologist or the supervisor or director of the clinical laboratory, unless they meet additional qualifications equivalent to a technologist.²²

All applicants for licensure as a technician must satisfy the federal CLIA requirements for moderate complexity testing, which require the applicant to:²³

- Be a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, or podiatric medicine; or
- Have earned a doctoral, master's, or bachelor's degree in a chemical, physical, biological or clinical laboratory science, or medical technology from an accredited institution;
- Have earned an associate degree in a chemical, physical, or biological science or medical laboratory technology from an accredited institution; or
- Be a high school graduate or equivalent and have successfully completed an official military medical laboratory procedures course of at least 50 weeks, and have held the military enlisted occupational specialty of medical laboratory specialist; or
- Be a high school graduate or equivalent; and
 - Have documentation of training appropriate for the testing performed prior to analyzing patient specimens.²⁴

²¹ Rule 64B3-5.003(3)(h), F.A.C.

²² Rule 64B3-13.004, F.A.C.

²³ Rule 64B3-5.004(2), F.A.C., and 42 C.F.R. § 493.1423.

²⁴ 42 C.F.R. § 493.1423. Such training must ensure that the individual has: the skills required for proper specimen collection, including patient preparation and labeling, handling, preservation, preparation, transportation, and storage of specimens; the skills required for implementing all standard laboratory procedures; the skills required for performing each test method and for proper instrument use; the skills required for performing preventive maintenance, troubleshooting and calibration procedures related to each test performed; the skills required to implement the quality control policies and procedures of the laboratory; the skills required to assess and verify the validity of

Current Board rules require a technician to comply with additional education and training requirements and obtain specialty category technician licensure in order to perform certain moderate complexity testing.²⁵ The specialist categories of technician licensure include: generalist technician (which includes the specialties of microbiology, serology/immunology, clinical chemistry, hematology, and immunohematology); histology specialist; andrology and embryology specialists; and molecular pathology specialist.

Specialty Categories of Technician Licensure

Generalist Technician Licensure

Licensure as a generalist technician includes the specialties of microbiology, serology/immunology, clinical chemistry, hematology, and immunohematology. The education, training, and certification requirements for licensure as a generalist technician include the following:²⁶

- Have a bachelor's degree; and
- Have three years of pertinent clinical laboratory experience within the ten years immediately preceding application for licensure; and
- Be certified by the ASCP, the American Medical Technologists (AMT), or the AAB.

Or:

- Have an associate degree; and
- Have four years of pertinent clinical laboratory experience within the ten years immediately preceding application for licensure; and
- Be certified by the ASCP, the AMT, or the AAB.

Or:

- Meet education standards as required by the ASCP, the AMT or the AAB; and
- Complete an approved clinical/medical laboratory training program or have five years of pertinent clinical laboratory experience within the ten years immediately preceding application for licensure; and
- Be certified by the ASCP, the AMT, or the AAB.

Histology Specialist

A histology specialist must be certified by the ASCP. To become certified, they must meet the education and training/experience standards of the ASCP.²⁷

Andrology and Embryology Specialists

Andrology and embryology specialists must:²⁸

- Have a bachelor's degree; and
- Have six months of pertinent clinical laboratory experience; and
- Be certified by the AAB.

patient test results through the evaluation of quality control sample values prior to reporting patient test results; a working knowledge of reagent stability and storage; and an awareness of the factors that influence test results.

²⁵ Rule 64B3-5.004(3), F.A.C.

²⁶ Rule 64B3-5.004(3)(a), F.A.C.

²⁷ Rule 64B3-5.004(3)(b), F.A.C.

²⁸ Rule 64B3-5.004(3)(c), F.A.C.

Or:

- Have an associate degree; and
- Have five years of pertinent clinical laboratory experience; and
- Be certified by the AAB.

Or:

- Meet education standards as required by the AAB;
- Complete an approved clinical/medical laboratory training program; and
- Be certified by the AAB.

Molecular Pathology Specialist

Molecular pathology specialists must:²⁹

- Have a high school diploma; and
- Be a licensed clinical laboratory technologist or technician in any specialty area; and
- Pass the molecular diagnostics examination; and
- Be certified by the AAB.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee	16 Y, 0 N	2/3/2026	McElroy	Guzzo
Health & Human Services Committee				

²⁹ Rule 64B3-5.004(3)(d), F.A.C.