

1                               A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to dietetics and nutrition; amending  
3       s. 468.502, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
4       made by the act; amending s. 468.503, F.S.; revising  
5       and providing definitions; amending s. 468.504, F.S.;  
6       prohibiting the provision of medical nutrition therapy  
7       under certain circumstances; authorizing the use of  
8       certain titles under certain circumstances; amending  
9       s. 468.505, F.S.; revising exemptions for certain  
10      persons to practice or provide services or activities  
11      relating to dietetics or nutrition under certain  
12      circumstances; amending s. 468.506, F.S.; revising the  
13      membership and powers and duties of the Dietetics and  
14      Nutrition Practice Council; amending s. 468.509, F.S.;  
15      revising requirements for licensure as a dietitian or  
16      nutritionist; amending s. 468.51, F.S.; revising  
17      licensure renewal requirements; amending s. 468.511,  
18      F.S.; revising temporary permit requirements for  
19      dietitians and nutritionists; amending s. 468.512,  
20      F.S.; removing authorizations for a licensed  
21      dietitian, a licensed nutritionist, or a licensed  
22      nutrition counselor for the use of certain words in  
23      connection to the licensee's name or place of  
24      business; amending s. 468.513, F.S.; conforming  
25      provisions to changes made by the act; repealing s.

468.516, F.S., relating to practice requirements;  
amending s. 468.517, F.S.; revising prohibited acts;  
amending ss. 468.518, 501.0573, and 501.0575, F.S.;  
conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
providing an effective date.

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

**Section 1. Section 468.502, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

468.502 Purpose and intent.—The Legislature finds that the practice of dietetics and the practice of nutrition ~~or nutrition counseling~~ by unskilled and incompetent practitioners presents a danger to the public health and safety. The Legislature further finds that it is difficult for the public to make informed choices about dietitians and nutritionists and that the consequences of wrong choices could seriously endanger the public health and safety. The sole legislative purpose in enacting this part is to ensure that every person who practices medical nutrition therapy ~~dietetics and nutrition or nutrition counseling~~ in this state meets minimum requirements for safe practice. It is the legislative intent that any person practicing as a dietitian or a nutritionist ~~dietetics and nutrition or nutrition counseling~~ who falls below minimum competency or who otherwise presents a danger to the public be

51 prohibited from practicing in this state. It is also the intent  
52 of the Legislature that the practice of medical nutrition  
53 therapy ~~nutrition counseling~~ be authorized and regulated solely  
54 within the limits expressly provided by this part and any rules  
55 adopted pursuant thereto.

56 **Section 2. Section 468.503, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
57 **to read:**

58 468.503 Definitions.—As used in this part:

59 (1) "Board" means the Board of Medicine.

60 (2) "Commission" means the Commission on Dietetic  
61 Registration, the credentialing agency of the Academy of  
62 Nutrition and Dietetics.

63 (3) "Complex" means a disease state, medical condition, or  
64 clinical presentation that requires medical nutrition therapy by  
65 a licensed dietitian due to one or more of the following:  
66 instability of the patient's health status; the presence of  
67 multiple or interacting comorbidities; a high risk of  
68 complications or rapid clinical deterioration; the need for  
69 intensive monitoring; or the need for advanced nutrition  
70 interventions, including therapeutic diets administered by  
71 enteral or parenteral routes. Complex disease states or  
72 conditions, including, but not limited to, severe malnutrition;  
73 organ failure; conditions requiring enteral or parenteral  
74 nutrition; renal disease requiring dialysis; severe metabolic  
75 disturbances; post-bariatric surgery care; and critical illness.

76        (4) "Degree" means a degree received from an educational  
77        institution that at the time the degree was awarded was  
78        accredited by a United States institutional accrediting body for  
79        higher education recognized by the Council for Higher Education  
80        Accreditation, the United States Department of Education, or a  
81        validated foreign equivalent.

82        (5)~~(3)~~ "Department" means the Department of Health.

83        ~~(4) "Dietetics" means the integration and application of~~  
84        ~~the principles derived from the sciences of nutrition,~~  
85        ~~biochemistry, food, physiology, and management and from the~~  
86        ~~behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain a~~  
87        ~~person's health throughout the person's life. It is an integral~~  
88        ~~part of preventive, diagnostic, curative, and restorative health~~  
89        ~~care of individuals, groups, or both.~~

90        ~~(5) "Dietetics and nutrition practice" shall include~~  
91        ~~assessing nutrition needs and status using appropriate data;~~  
92        ~~recommending appropriate dietary regimens, nutrition support,~~  
93        ~~and nutrient intake; ordering therapeutic diets; improving~~  
94        ~~health status through nutrition research, counseling, and~~  
95        ~~education; and developing, implementing, and managing nutrition~~  
96        ~~care systems, which includes, but is not limited to, evaluating,~~  
97        ~~modifying, and maintaining appropriate standards of high quality~~  
98        ~~in food and nutrition care services.~~

99        (6) "Dietetic technician" means a person who assists in  
100       the provision of dietetic and nutrition services under the

101 supervision of a qualified professional.

102 (7) "General nonmedical nutrition information" means  
103 information including all of the following:

104 (a) Principles of human nutrition and food preparation.

105 (b) Principles of self-care and a healthy relationship  
106 with food.

107 (c) Essential nutrients needed by the human body.

108 (d) General and nonindividualized recommended amounts of  
109 essential nutrients in the human body.

110 (e) Actions of nutrients in the human body.

111 (f) Nonindividualized effects of deficiencies or an excess  
112 of nutrients in the human body.

113 (g) General education surrounding foods, herbs, and  
114 dietary supplements that are good sources of essential nutrients  
115 in the human body.

116 (8) ~~(7)~~ "Licensed dietitian/nutritionist" means a person  
117 duly licensed under s. 468.509(1) to engage in the practice of  
118 dietetics and the practice of nutrition, including providing  
119 medical nutrition therapy licensed pursuant to s. 468.509.

120 (9) ~~(8)~~ "Licensed nutrition counselor" means a person  
121 licensed pursuant to s. 468.51.

122 (10) "Licensed nutritionist" means a person duly licensed  
123 under s. 468.509(2) to engage in the practice of nutrition,  
124 including noncomplex medical nutrition therapy.

125 (11) "Medical nutrition therapy" means providing the

126 following nutrition care services to manage or treat a disease  
127 or medical condition:

128 (a) Nutrition assessment.

129 (b) Nutrition diagnosis.

130 (c) Nutrition intervention.

131 (d) Nutrition monitoring and evaluation.

132 (12) "Medical weight control" means medical nutrition  
133 therapy provided for the purpose of reducing, maintaining, or  
134 gaining weight.

135 (13) "Noncomplex" means a disease state, medical  
136 condition, or clinical presentation that is stable or well-  
137 managed; does not involve rapid clinical deterioration or high-  
138 acuity care needs; and can be safely addressed through medical  
139 nutrition therapy delivered in low-acuity outpatient settings by  
140 a practitioner practicing within their demonstrated level of  
141 competence. Noncomplex conditions do not:

142 (a) Require intensive monitoring;

143 (b) Involve multiple interacting comorbidities; or

144 (c) Necessitate advanced interventions such as therapeutic  
145 diets delivered through enteral or parenteral nutrition.

146 (14) "Nonmedical weight control" means nutrition care  
147 services provided for the purpose of reducing, maintaining, or  
148 gaining weight that do not constitute the treatment or  
149 management of a disease or medical condition. The term includes  
150 weight control services for healthy population groups to achieve

151 or maintain a healthy weight.

152 (15) "Nutrition assessment" means the ongoing, dynamic,  
153 and systematic process of ordering, obtaining, verifying, and  
154 interpreting biochemical, anthropometric, physical,  
155 nutrigenomic, and dietary data to make decisions about the  
156 nature and cause of nutrition-related problems relative to  
157 patient and community needs. Nutrition assessment includes, but  
158 is not limited to, initial data collection, ordering laboratory  
159 tests to check and track nutritional status, reassessment and  
160 analysis of patient or community needs, and providing the  
161 foundation for nutrition diagnosis and nutritional  
162 recommendations and orders. The collection of nutrition-related  
163 data does not, by itself, constitute nutrition assessment.

164 (16) "Nutrition care process" means the systematic  
165 problem-solving method that licensed dietitians use to make  
166 decisions when providing medical nutrition therapy or when  
167 addressing nutrition-related problems and to provide safe and  
168 effective care. The nutrition care process includes nutrition  
169 assessment, nutrition diagnosis, nutrition intervention, and  
170 nutrition monitoring and evaluation.

171 (17) "Nutrition care services" means all of the following  
172 services provided within a nutrition care process:

173 (a) Assessing and evaluating the nutritional needs of  
174 individuals and groups and determining resources and constraints  
175 in a practice setting, including ordering nutrition-related

laboratory tests to check and track nutrition status.

(b) Identifying nutrition problems and establishing priorities, goals, and objectives that meet nutritional needs and are consistent with available resources and constraints.

(c) Creating individualized dietary plans and issuing and implementing orders to meet nutritional needs of healthy individuals and individuals with disease states or medical conditions, including ordering therapeutic diets and monitoring the effectiveness of such diets.

(d) Determining and providing appropriate nutrition intervention, including nutrition counseling on food and prescription drug interactions.

(e) Developing, implementing, and managing nutrition care systems.

(f) Evaluating, making changes, and maintaining appropriate standards of quality in food and nutrition services.

(18) "Nutrition counseling" means a supportive process, characterized by a collaborative counselor-patient relationship with individuals or groups, to establish food and nutrition priorities, goals, and individualized action plans and general physical activity guidance, that acknowledge and foster responsibility for self-care, to promote health and wellness or to treat or manage an existing disease or medical condition.

(19) "Nutrition diagnosis" means identifying and labeling nutrition problems managed and treated by a licensed dietitian



201 or licensed nutritionist. The term does not include a medical  
202 diagnosis of the health status of an individual.

203 (20) "Nutrition intervention" means purposefully planned  
204 actions, including nutrition counseling, intended to positively  
205 change a nutrition-related behavior, risk factor, environmental  
206 condition, or aspect of health status of an individual, and his  
207 or her family or caregivers, target groups, or community at  
208 large. The term includes approving, ordering, and monitoring  
209 therapeutic diets, and counseling on food and prescription drug  
210 interactions.

211 (21) "Nutrition monitoring and evaluation" means  
212 identifying patient outcomes relevant to the nutrition  
213 diagnosis, intervention plans, and goals and comparing those  
214 outcomes with previous status, intervention goals, or a  
215 reference standard to determine the progress made in achieving  
216 desired outcomes of nutrition care and whether planned  
217 interventions should be continued or revised.

218 (22) "Patient" means an individual recipient of nutrition  
219 care services.

220 (23) "Practice of dietetics" means the integration and  
221 application of scientific principles derived from the study of  
222 food, nutrition, biochemistry, metabolism, nutrigenomics,  
223 physiology, pharmacology, food systems, management, and  
224 behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain optimal  
225 nutrition status of individuals and groups across a lifespan.

The practice of dietetics includes providing nutrition care services, including medical nutrition therapy, in person or through telehealth to prevent, manage, or treat complex diseases or medical conditions and promote wellness in inpatient and outpatient settings. The practice of dietetics includes developing and ordering therapeutic diets through oral, enteral, and parenteral routes and providing medical nutrition therapy and related support activities consistent with current competencies required of academic and supervised practice programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics and in compliance with the Commission on Dietetic Registration's Scope and Standards of Practice for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

(24) "Practice of nutrition" means the integration and application of scientific principles derived from the study of nutrition science, cellular and systemic metabolism, biochemistry, physiology, and behavioral sciences to support and maintain health throughout a lifespan. The practice of nutrition includes providing nutrition care services, including medical nutrition therapy, in person or through telehealth for the prevention, management, or treatment of noncomplex diseases and medical conditions in low-acuity outpatient settings and for the promotion of wellness. The practice of nutrition does not include medical nutrition therapy for complex conditions and the delivery of medical nutrition therapy in inpatient or high-

251 acuity outpatient settings. The practice of nutrition,  
252 consistent with level of competence, may include ordering of  
253 oral therapeutic diets; ordering of medical laboratory tests  
254 related to nutrition interventions; and recommending vitamin,  
255 mineral, and other dietary supplements.

256 (25) "Qualified supervisor" means an individual providing  
257 supervision who assumes full professional responsibility for the  
258 work of the student or trainee by verifying, directing, and  
259 approving the provided nutrition care services, medical  
260 nutrition therapy, and other activities or services being  
261 supervised.

262 (a) To qualify as a qualified supervisor for purposes of  
263 this chapter, an individual shall meet all the following  
264 requirements:

265 1. Only supervise a clinical activity or nutrition care  
266 service for which the qualified supervisor is authorized to  
267 perform.

268 2. Develop and carry out a program for advancing and  
269 optimizing the quality of care provided by the student or  
270 trainee being supervised. A qualified supervisor and a student  
271 or trainee being supervised shall identify and document goals  
272 for supervised practice experiences, the assignment of clinical  
273 tasks as appropriate to the progressing competence level of the  
274 student or trainee, the relationship of and access to the  
275 student or trainee to the qualified supervisor, and a process

276 for evaluating the performance of the student or trainee.

277 3. Oversee the activities of and approve and accept  
278 responsibility for the nutrition care services provided by the  
279 student or trainee.

280 4. At a minimum, be physically onsite and present where  
281 the student or trainee is providing nutrition care services or  
282 be immediately and continuously available to the student or  
283 trainee by means of two-way, real-time audiovisual communication  
284 that allows for the direct, contemporaneous interaction by sight  
285 and sound between the qualified supervisor and the student or  
286 trainee. If the qualified supervisor assigns a nutrition care  
287 service to a student or trainee that is to be provided in a  
288 setting where the qualified supervisor is not routinely present,  
289 the qualified supervisor shall ensure that the means and methods  
290 of supervision are adequate to ensure appropriate patient care,  
291 which may include synchronous videoconferencing or other methods  
292 of communication and oversight that are appropriate to the care  
293 setting and the education and experience of the student or  
294 trainee.

295 5. Review on a regular basis the charts, records, and  
296 clinical notes of the student or trainee, and maintain  
297 responsibility for the clinical recordkeeping of the student or  
298 trainee.

299 6. Be available to render assistance while a student or  
300 trainee is providing nutrition care services when requested by

301 the patient or shall have arranged for another qualified  
302 practitioner, lawfully able to render nutrition care services,  
303 to be available in the absence of the qualified supervisor.

304 7. Limit the assignment of nutrition care services to  
305 those services that are within the training and experience of  
306 the student or trainee and customary to the practice of the  
307 qualified supervisor.

308 (b) A qualified supervisor shall satisfy the requirements  
309 in paragraph (a) and, if supervising medical nutrition therapy,  
310 shall:

311 1. Be licensed or certified as a dietitian, nutritionist,  
312 dietitian nutritionist, or healthcare provider whose scope of  
313 practice includes medical nutrition therapy in the state or  
314 territory in which such supervised practice experience occurs;

315 2. Meet other criteria established by board rule or  
316 regulation when a state in which the supervised practice occurs  
317 does not provide for licensure or certification of dietitians,  
318 dietitian nutritionists, or nutritionists; or

319 3. Meet the exemption requirements of s. 468.505(b).

320 (26) "Registered dietitian" means a person who is  
321 credentialed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration or its  
322 successor organization as a registered dietitian or a registered  
323 dietitian nutritionist and is authorized to use such title and  
324 the abbreviations "RD" or "RDN."

325 (27) "Telehealth" means the use of electronic information

326 and telecommunications technologies to provide services under  
327 this chapter between a practitioner in one location and an  
328 patient in another location to support clinical health care,  
329 public health, health-related education, and health  
330 administration.

331 (28) "Therapeutic diet" means a diet intervention ordered  
332 by a physician or other authorized provider, including a  
333 licensed dietitian or, for oral diets only, a licensed  
334 nutritionist. A therapeutic diet includes food, fluids, or  
335 nutrients provided by oral, enteral, or parenteral routes and is  
336 used in the treatment of a disease or clinical condition to  
337 modify, eliminate, decrease, or increase specific macronutrients  
338 or micronutrients, or to provide mechanically altered food when  
339 medically necessary.

340 (29) "Unrestricted practice of medical nutrition therapy"  
341 means the provision of medical nutrition therapy by an  
342 individual who is responsible for his or her own practice or  
343 treatment procedures.

344 ~~(9) "Nutrition assessment" means the evaluation of the~~  
345 ~~nutrition needs of individuals or groups, using appropriate data~~  
346 ~~to determine nutrient needs or status and make appropriate~~  
347 ~~nutrition recommendations.~~

348 ~~(10) "Nutrition counseling" means advising and assisting~~  
349 ~~individuals or groups on appropriate nutrition intake by~~  
350 ~~integrating information from the nutrition assessment.~~

~~(11) "Preprofessional experience component" means a planned and continuous supervised practice experience in dietetics or nutrition.~~

~~(12) "Registered dietitian" or "registered dietitian/nutritionist" means an individual registered with the commission.~~

**Section 3. Section 468.504, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

468.504 License required.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided in s. 468.505, a person may not engage in or offer to provide medical nutrition therapy unless the person is licensed under this chapter.

(2) Except as otherwise provided under this chapter, a person may only:

(a) Designate or hold himself or herself out as a licensed dietitian or use or assume the titles "licensed dietitian," "dietitian," "dietitian nutritionist," "dietician," or any other title indicating that the person is a licensed dietitian or use in conjunction with that person's name the letters "LD" if the person is a licensed dietitian under s. 468.509(1).

(b) Use or assume the title "licensed nutritionist" or include or use in conjunction with that person's name the letters "LN" if the person is a licensed nutritionist under s. 468.509(2) or a licensed nutrition counselor under s. 468.51.

(c) Designate or hold himself or herself out as a

376 nutritionist or use or assume the title "nutritionist," if the  
377 person is licensed under this chapter ~~No person may engage for~~  
378 ~~remuneration in dietetics and nutrition practice or nutrition~~  
379 ~~counseling or hold himself or herself out as a practitioner of~~  
380 ~~dietetics and nutrition practice or nutrition counseling unless~~  
381 ~~the person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this~~  
382 ~~part.~~

383 **Section 4. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 468.505,**  
384 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

385 468.505 Exemptions; exceptions.—

386 (1) ~~Nothing in~~ This part does not prohibit or restrict ~~may~~  
387 ~~be construed as prohibiting or restricting~~ the practice,  
388 services, or activities of:

389 (a) A person licensed in this state under chapter 457,  
390 chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 461, chapter 462,  
391 chapter 463, part I of chapter 464, chapter 465, chapter 466,  
392 chapter 480, chapter 490, or chapter 491, when engaging in the  
393 profession or occupation for which he or she is licensed, or of  
394 any person employed by and under the supervision of the licensee  
395 when rendering services within the scope of the profession or  
396 occupation of the licensee.

397 (b) A dietician or a nutritionist who is serving in the  
398 Armed Forces or the United States Public Health Service or is  
399 employed by the Veterans Administration from engaging in the  
400 practice of medical nutrition therapy or using government issued



401 titles, provided such practice or title use is related to such  
402 service or employment ~~person employed as a dietitian by the~~  
403 ~~government of the United States, if the person engages in~~  
404 ~~dietetics solely under direction or control of the organization~~  
405 ~~by which the person is employed.~~

406 ~~(c) A person employed as a cooperative extension home~~  
407 ~~economist.~~

408 (c)(d) A person pursuing a course of study leading to a  
409 degree in dietetics and nutrition from a program or school  
410 accredited pursuant to s. 468.509(3), if the activities and  
411 services constitute a part of a supervised course of study, the  
412 person is under the direction of a qualified supervisor as  
413 defined in s. 468.503, and if the person is designated by a  
414 title that clearly indicates the person's status as a student or  
415 trainee.

416 (d)(e) A person fulfilling the supervised experience  
417 component of s. 468.509, if the activities and services  
418 constitute a part of the experience necessary to meet the  
419 requirements under ~~of~~ s. 468.509 and the person is under the  
420 direction of a qualified supervisor as defined in s. 468.503.

421 (e)(f) Any dietitian or nutritionist from another state  
422 practicing medical nutrition therapy ~~dietetics or nutrition~~  
423 incidental to a course of study when taking or giving a  
424 postgraduate course or other course of study in this state,  
425 provided such dietitian or nutritionist is licensed in another

jurisdiction or is a registered dietitian or holds an appointment on the faculty of a school accredited pursuant to s. 468.509(3).

(f)~~(g)~~ A person who markets or distributes food, food materials, or dietary supplements, or any person who engages in the explanation of the use and benefits of those products or the preparation of those products, if that person does not engage in the practice of medical nutrition therapy and the person does not represent himself or herself using titles under s. 468.504 ~~for a fee in dietetics and nutrition practice or nutrition counseling.~~

(g)~~(h)~~ A person who markets or distributes food, food materials, or dietary supplements, or any person who engages in the explanation of the use of those products or the preparation of those products, as an employee of an establishment permitted pursuant to chapter 465, if that person does not engage in the practice of medical nutrition therapy and the person does not represent himself or herself using titles under s. 468.504.

(h)~~(i)~~ An individual who is employed by this state, a county, a municipal agency, or any other political subdivision, or a person who contracts with any of the foregoing, for the purposes of providing nutrition care services for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, from providing nutrition care services using the title of "nutritionist" within the discharge of his or her official

451 ~~duties educator who is in the employ of a nonprofit organization~~  
452 ~~approved by the council; a federal, state, county, or municipal~~  
453 ~~agency, or other political subdivision; an elementary or~~  
454 ~~secondary school; or an accredited institution of higher~~  
455 ~~education the definition of which, as provided in s. 468.509(3),~~  
456 ~~applies to other sections of this part, insofar as the~~  
457 ~~activities and services of the educator are part of such~~  
458 ~~employment.~~

459 ~~(i)-(j)~~ Any person who does not represent himself or  
460 herself using the titles under s. 468.504 who is providing  
461 medical weight control for obesity as part of the following:

462 1. An instructional program that has been approved in  
463 writing by one of the following:

464 a. A licensed nutritionist or licensed dietitian; or

465 b. A health care practitioner licensed or certified in  
466 this state whose authorized scope of practice includes medical  
467 nutrition therapy.

468 2. A plan of care that is overseen by a health  
469 professional licensed in this state whose scope of practice  
470 otherwise authorizes the health professional to provide and  
471 delegate medical nutrition therapy if the medical weight control  
472 services are not discretionary and do not require the exercise  
473 of professional judgment ~~provides weight control services or~~  
474 ~~related weight control products, provided the program has been~~  
475 ~~reviewed by, consultation is available from, and no program~~

476 ~~change can be initiated without prior approval by a licensed~~  
477 ~~dietitian/nutritionist, a dietitian or nutritionist licensed in~~  
478 ~~another state that has licensure requirements considered by the~~  
479 ~~council to be at least as stringent as the requirements for~~  
480 ~~licensure under this part, or a registered dietitian.~~

481 (j)(\*) An out-of-state dietitian or nutritionist who  
482 provides medical nutrition therapy services through telehealth  
483 to a patient located in this state if the out-of-state dietitian  
484 or nutritionist:

485 1. Is licensed or certified in good standing in any state  
486 or territory and provides medical nutrition therapy services  
487 through telehealth and:

488 a. Is in consultation with a dietitian or a licensed  
489 nutritionist licensed in this state who engages in the practice  
490 of medical nutrition therapy and who has a practitioner-patient  
491 relationship with the patient;

492 b. Has a current practitioner-patient relationship and the  
493 patient is temporarily present in this state; or

494 c. Is providing care pursuant to a current practitioner-  
495 patient relationship and such care is limited to temporary or  
496 short-term follow-up medical nutrition therapy services to  
497 ensure continuity of care.

498 2. By engaging in telehealth with a patient located in  
499 this state, the dietitian or nutritionist is exempted from  
500 licensure requirements under paragraph (j) consents to the

501 applicable laws, rules, and regulations of this state and the  
502 Florida Dietetics and Nutrition Practice Council ~~A person~~  
503 ~~employed by a hospital licensed under chapter 395, by a nursing~~  
504 ~~home licensed under part II of chapter 400, by an assisted~~  
505 ~~living facility licensed under chapter 429, or by a continuing~~  
506 ~~care facility certified under chapter 651, if the person is~~  
507 ~~employed in compliance with the laws and rules adopted~~  
508 ~~thereunder regarding the operation of its dietetic department.~~

509 ~~(k)-(l)~~ A person employed by a nursing facility exempt from  
510 licensing under s. 395.002(12), or a person exempt from  
511 licensing under s. 464.022.

512 ~~(l)-(m)~~ A person who does not represent himself or herself  
513 using the titles under s. 468.504, including a dietetic  
514 technician, who assists with the provision of medical nutrition  
515 therapy if the person performs only support activities that are  
516 not discretionary and that do not require the exercise of  
517 professional judgment for their performance, and the person is  
518 directly supervised by a licensed dietitian, licensed  
519 nutritionist, or a health care practitioner licensed in this  
520 state acting within the scope of practice ~~employed as a dietetic~~  
521 ~~technician.~~

522 ~~(m)-(n)~~ A ~~Any~~ person who provides individualized nutrition  
523 recommendations for wellness and the primary prevention of  
524 chronic disease, health coaching, holistic and wellness  
525 education, guidance, motivation, behavior change management,

526 services for nonmedical weight control, or other nutrition care  
527 services if all the following apply:

528 1. The services do not constitute medical nutrition  
529 therapy.

530 2. The person does not represent himself or herself using  
531 any of the titles under s. 468.504.

532 3. The person does not hold himself or herself out as  
533 licensed or qualified to engage in the practice of medical  
534 nutrition therapy ~~information, wellness recommendations, or~~  
535 ~~advice concerning nutrition, or who markets food, food~~  
536 ~~materials, or dietary supplements for remuneration, if such~~  
537 ~~person does not provide such services to a person under the~~  
538 ~~direct care and supervision of a medical doctor for a disease or~~  
539 ~~medical condition requiring nutrition intervention, not~~  
540 ~~including obesity or weight loss, and does not represent himself~~  
541 ~~or herself as a dietitian, licensed dietitian, registered~~  
542 ~~dietitian, nutritionist, licensed nutritionist, nutrition~~  
543 ~~counselor, or licensed nutrition counselor, or use any word,~~  
544 ~~letter, symbol, or insignia indicating or implying that he or~~  
545 ~~she is a dietitian, nutritionist, or nutrition counselor.~~

546 (4) This part does not prohibit an individual from  
547 identifying themselves by an earned, federally trademarked  
548 nutrition credential. However, such use does not authorize the  
549 individual to engage in the practice of medical nutrition  
550 therapy or identify using the general titles of "dietitian,"

"dietitian nutritionist," or "nutritionist" unless an individual is also licensed under this chapter. ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, an individual registered by the commission has the right to use the title "Registered Dietitian" or "Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist," and the designation "R.D." or "R.D.N." An individual certified by the Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists has the right to use the title "Certified Nutrition Specialist" and the designation "CNS," and an individual certified by the American Clinical Board of Nutrition has the right to use the title "Diplomate of the American Clinical Board of Nutrition" and use the designation "DACBN."~~

**Section 5. Section 468.506, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

468.506 Dietetics and Nutrition Practice Council.—There is created the Dietetics and Nutrition Practice Council under the supervision of the board. The council shall consist of three dietitians and one nutritionist ~~four persons~~ licensed under this part and one consumer who is 60 years of age or older. Council members shall be appointed by the board. Licensed members shall be appointed based on the proportion of licensees within each of the respective disciplines. Members shall be appointed for 4-year staggered terms. In order to be eligible for appointment, each licensed member must have been a licensee under this part for at least 3 years before ~~prior to~~ his or her appointment. A

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ORIGINAL

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576 ~~No~~ council member may not ~~shall~~ serve more than two successive  
577 terms. The board may delegate such powers and duties to the  
578 council as it may deem proper to carry out the operations and  
579 procedures necessary to effectuate ~~the provisions of~~ this part.  
580 However, the powers and duties delegated to the council by the  
581 board must encompass both the practice of dietetics and the  
582 practice of nutrition ~~dietetics and nutrition practice and~~  
583 ~~nutrition counseling~~. Any time there is a vacancy on the  
584 council, any professional association composed of persons  
585 licensed under this part may recommend licensees to fill the  
586 vacancy to the board in a number at least twice the number of  
587 vacancies to be filled, and the board may appoint from the  
588 submitted list, in its discretion, any of those persons so  
589 recommended. Any professional association composed of persons  
590 licensed under this part may file an appeal regarding a council  
591 appointment with the State Surgeon General, whose decision shall  
592 be final. The board shall fix council members' compensation and  
593 pay their expenses in the same manner as provided in s. 456.011.

594 **Section 6. Section 468.509, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
595 **to read:**

596 (Substantial rewording of section. See  
597 s. 468.509, F.S., for present text.)  
598 468.509 Dietitian and nutritionist; requirements for  
599 licensure.—  
600 (1) Each applicant for licensure as a dietitian shall



601 submit a completed application as required by the board  
602 demonstrating the applicant is capable and professionally  
603 competent, as determined by the board, to safely engage in the  
604 practices of dietetics and practice of nutrition, submit any  
605 fees as required by the board, submit to background screening in  
606 accordance with s. 456.0135, and meet one of the two following  
607 criteria:

608 (a) The applicant shall submit proof of completion of all  
609 the following:

610 1. A master's degree or doctoral degree and a program of  
611 study accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in  
612 Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) or its successor organization.

613 2. A planned, documented, and continuous preprofessional  
614 experience component in the practice of dietetics and practice  
615 of nutrition approved by the examining board and accredited by  
616 ACEND, or its successor organization, including at least 1000  
617 hours of supervised practice experience under the supervision of  
618 a qualified supervisor as defined in s. 468.503. An applicant  
619 shall complete the preprofessional experience under this  
620 subparagraph within 5 years of completing the requirement under  
621 subparagraph 1. unless the examining board, for extraordinary  
622 circumstances, grants an extension for a limited time.

623 3. The registration examination for dietitians  
624 administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, or its  
625 successor organization. If an applicant passed the examination

626 more than 5 years before application, demonstration of  
627 completion of 75 hours of continuing education meeting the  
628 continuing education criteria of the board per each 5-year  
629 period post examination.

630 (b) The applicant submits proof of holding a valid,  
631 current registration with the Commission on Dietetic  
632 Registration, or its successor organization, that gives the  
633 applicant the right to use the term "registered dietitian,"  
634 "registered dietitian nutritionist," "RD," or "RDN."

635 (2) Each applicant for licensure as a nutritionist shall  
636 submit a completed application as required by the board  
637 demonstrating the applicant is capable and professionally  
638 competent, as determined by the board, to safely engage in the  
639 practice of nutrition, submit any fees, as required by the  
640 board, submit to background screening in accordance with s.  
641 456.0135, and submit proof of completion of all the following:

642 (a) A master's degree or doctoral degree with a major in  
643 human nutrition, foods and nutrition, community nutrition,  
644 public health nutrition, nutrition education, nutrition,  
645 nutrition science, clinical nutrition, applied clinical  
646 nutrition, nutrition counseling, nutrition and functional  
647 medicine, nutritional biochemistry, nutrition and integrative  
648 health, or a comparable titled major, or a doctoral degree or  
649 validated foreign equivalent, in a field of clinical healthcare.  
650 The applicant shall complete coursework leading to competence in

651 noncomplex medical nutrition therapy, which includes, but may  
652 not be limited to, the following:

653 1. Fifteen semester hours of courses on clinical or life  
654 sciences, including at least three semester hours in human  
655 anatomy and physiology or the equivalent.

656 2. Fifteen semester hours of courses on nutrition and  
657 metabolism, including at least six semester hours in  
658 biochemistry.

659 (b) A planned, documented, and continuous preprofessional  
660 experience component in the practice of nutrition approved by  
661 the examining board and meeting all the following requirements:

662 1. An applicant shall complete a preprofessional  
663 experience component under this paragraph within 5 years of  
664 completing the requirements under paragraph (a) unless the  
665 examining board, for extraordinary circumstances, grants an  
666 extension for a limited time.

667 2. A preprofessional experience completed under this  
668 paragraph shall involve at least 1,000 hours in the following  
669 practice areas, with a minimum of 200 hours in each practice  
670 area: nutrition assessment, nutrition intervention, and  
671 nutrition monitoring and evaluation.

672 3. Experience determined by the board to have prepared the  
673 applicant to provide nutrition care services for various  
674 populations of diverse cultures, genders, and across the life  
675 cycle, and to be able to competently provide medical nutrition

therapies and interventions, education, counseling, and ongoing care for the prevention, modulation, and management of a range of noncomplex medical conditions.

4. A preprofessional experience completed under this paragraph under the supervision of a qualified supervisor as defined in s. 468.503.

(c) The examination requirements by demonstrating:

1. Passage of the certified nutrition specialist examination administered by the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists, or its successor organization, or an equivalent examination on all aspects of the practice of nutrition that has been reviewed under a program that requires a master's degree or higher, is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, and is approved by the examining board. If the applicant passed the exam more than 5 years before application, demonstration of completion of 75 hours of continuing education meeting the continuing education criteria of the board per each 5-year period post examination; or

2. The applicant holds a valid, current certification with the Board for Certification of Nutrition Specialists, or its successor organization, that gives the applicant the right to use the title "certified nutrition specialist."

(3) All persons licensed or who have applied for licensure before July 1, 2026, shall remain licensed, eligible for

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701 reactivation, or eligible for licensure under the requirements  
702 in place at the time of application, if the applicant or  
703 licensee remains in good standing and maintains an active or  
704 inactive.

705 (a) A person who is a licensed dietitian nutritionist on  
706 July 1, 2026, shall be licensed as a dietitian without meeting  
707 any additional requirements if such person holds the registered  
708 dietitian credential issued by the Commission on Dietetic  
709 Registration.

710 (b) A person who is a licensed dietitian nutritionist and  
711 does not hold the registered dietitian credential issued by the  
712 Commission on Dietetic Registration July 1, 2026, shall be  
713 licensed as a nutritionist without meeting any additional  
714 requirements.

715 (c) A person who is a licensed nutrition counselor on the  
716 July 1, 2026, shall be licensed as a nutritionist without  
717 meeting any additional requirements.

718 **Section 7. Section 468.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
719 **read:**

720 468.51 Nutrition counselor; renewal of licensure.—Any  
721 person previously certified as qualified by the board and  
722 holding a license to practice as a nutrition counselor in this  
723 state which was issued during the period from July 1, 1988, to  
724 March 30, 1997, based upon documentation that the person was  
725 employed as a practitioner of nutrition counseling previous to

and on April 1, 1988, is ~~shall be~~ eligible to renew his or her license as a nutritionist pursuant to s. 468.514.

**Section 8. Section 468.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

468.511 Dietitian and nutritionist ~~Dietitian/nutritionist~~; temporary permit.—

(1) The board, in its discretion, may issue a temporary permit for an individual to engage in:

(a) The practice of dietetics and the practice of nutrition under the supervision of a licensed dietitian upon the filing of an application with appropriate fees and submission of evidence of successful completion of the education and preprofessional experience requirements for dietitian licensure provided for in s. 468.509(1).

(b) The practice of nutrition under the supervision of a licensed dietitian or licensed nutritionist upon the filing of an application with appropriate fees and submission of evidence of successful completion of the education and supervised practice requirements for nutritionist licensure provided for in s. 468.509(2).

~~(1) A temporary permit to practice dietetics and nutrition may be issued by the board on the filing of an application, payment of a temporary permit fee, and the submission of evidence of the successful completion of the educational requirement under s. 468.509. The initial application shall be~~

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751 ~~signed by the supervising licensee.~~

752 ~~(2) A person practicing under a temporary permit shall be~~  
753 ~~under the supervision and direction of a licensed~~  
754 ~~dietitian/nutritionist.~~

755 (2)~~(3)~~ A temporary permit shall expire 1 year from the  
756 date of issuance.

757 (3)~~(4)~~ One extension of a temporary permit may be granted  
758 for good cause shown.

759 ~~(5) If the board determines that an applicant is qualified~~  
760 ~~to be licensed by endorsement under s. 468.513, the board may~~  
761 ~~issue the applicant a temporary permit to practice dietetics and~~  
762 ~~nutrition until the next board meeting at which license~~  
763 ~~applications are to be considered, but not for a longer period~~  
764 ~~of time.~~

765 ~~(6) If the board determines that an applicant has not~~  
766 ~~passed an examination recognized by the board and is not~~  
767 ~~qualified to be licensed by endorsement, but has otherwise met~~  
768 ~~all the requirements of s. 468.509 and has made application for~~  
769 ~~the next scheduled examination, the board may issue the~~  
770 ~~applicant a temporary permit allowing him or her to practice~~  
771 ~~dietetics and nutrition under the supervision of a licensed~~  
772 ~~dietitian/nutritionist until notification of the results of the~~  
773 ~~examination.~~

774 **Section 9. Section 468.512, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
775 **to read:**

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468.512 License to be displayed.—

~~(1)(a) A licensed dietitian/nutritionist may use the words "dietitian," "licensed dietitian," "nutritionist," or "licensed nutritionist," in connection with the licensee's name or place of business, to denote licensure under this part.~~

~~(b) A licensed nutrition counselor may use the words "nutrition counselor," "licensed nutrition counselor," "nutritionist," or "licensed nutritionist," in connection with the licensee's name or place of business, to denote licensure under this part.~~

~~(2)~~ Each person to whom a license is issued under this part shall keep such license conspicuously displayed in his or her office, place of business, or place of employment and, whenever required, shall exhibit such license to any member or authorized representative of the board.

**Section 10. Section 468.513, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

468.513 Dietitian and nutritionist ~~Dietitian/nutritionist;~~ licensure by endorsement.—The department shall issue a license to practice as a dietitian or a nutritionist ~~dietetics and nutrition~~ by endorsement to any applicant who submits to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135 and meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145, upon receipt of a completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.



801       **Section 11.** Section 468.516, Florida Statutes, is  
802 repealed.

803       **Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 468.517, Florida**  
804 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

805       468.517 Prohibitions; penalties.—

806       (1) A person may not knowingly:

807       (a) Engage in the dietetics and nutrition practice of  
808 medical nutrition therapy or nutrition counseling for  
809 remuneration unless the person is licensed under this part or is  
810 otherwise exempt under s. 468.505;

811       (b) Use titles as provided for under s. 468.504 ~~the name~~  
812 ~~or title "dietitian," "licensed dietitian," "nutritionist,"~~  
813 ~~"licensed nutritionist," "nutrition counselor," or "licensed~~  
814 ~~nutrition counselor," or any other words, letters,~~  
815 ~~abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that he or she~~  
816 ~~is a dietitian, nutritionist, or nutrition counselor, or~~  
817 ~~otherwise hold himself or herself out as such,~~ unless the person  
818 is the holder of a valid and appropriate license issued under  
819 this part;

820       (c) Present as his or her own the license of another;

821       (d) Give false or forged evidence to the board or a member  
822 thereof;

823       (e) Use or attempt to use a license that has been  
824 suspended, revoked, or placed on inactive or delinquent status;

825       (f) Employ unlicensed persons to engage in medical

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826 nutrition therapy ~~dietetics and nutrition practice or nutrition~~  
827 ~~counseling~~; or

828 (g) Conceal information relative to any violation of this  
829 part.

830 **Section 13. Subsection (1) of section 468.518, Florida**  
831 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

832 468.518 Grounds for disciplinary action.—

833 (1) The following acts constitute grounds for denial of a  
834 license or disciplinary action, as specified in s. 456.072(2):

835 (a) Violating any provision of this part, any board or  
836 department rule adopted pursuant thereto, or any lawful order of  
837 the board or department previously entered in a disciplinary  
838 hearing held pursuant to this part, or failing to comply with a  
839 lawfully issued subpoena of the department. The provisions of  
840 this paragraph also apply to any order or subpoena previously  
841 issued by the Department of Health during its period of  
842 regulatory control over this part.

843 (b) Being unable to engage in the practice of dietetics or  
844 the practice of ~~and nutrition practice or nutrition counseling~~  
845 with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of  
846 illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any  
847 other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical  
848 condition.

849 1. A licensee whose license is suspended or revoked  
850 pursuant to this paragraph shall, at reasonable intervals, be

851 given an opportunity to demonstrate that he or she can resume  
852 the competent practice of dietetics or the practice of ~~and~~  
853 nutrition ~~or nutrition counseling~~ with reasonable skill and  
854 safety to patients.

855 2. Neither the record of the proceeding nor the orders  
856 entered by the board in any proceeding under this paragraph may  
857 be used against a licensee in any other proceeding.

858 (c) Attempting to procure or procuring a license to  
859 practice dietetics or practice ~~and~~ nutrition ~~or nutrition~~  
860 ~~counseling~~ by fraud or material misrepresentation of material  
861 fact.

862 (d) Having a license to practice dietetics or practice ~~and~~  
863 nutrition ~~or nutrition counseling~~ revoked, suspended, or  
864 otherwise acted against, including the denial of licensure by  
865 the licensing authority of another state, district, territory,  
866 or country.

867 (e) Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea  
868 of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in  
869 any jurisdiction which directly relates to the practice of  
870 dietetics or the practice of ~~and~~ nutrition ~~or nutrition~~  
871 ~~counseling~~ or the ability to practice dietetics or practice ~~and~~  
872 nutrition ~~or nutrition counseling~~.

873 (f) Making or filing a report or record that the licensee  
874 knows to be false, willfully failing to file a report or record  
875 required by state or federal law, willfully impeding or

obstructing such filing, or inducing another person to impede or obstruct such filing. Such reports or records include only those that are signed in the capacity of a licensed dietician or a licensed nutritionist ~~dietitian/nutritionist or licensed nutrition counselor~~.

(g) Advertising goods or services in a manner that is fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading in form or content.

(h) Committing an act of fraud or deceit, or of negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice of dietetics, the practice of ~~and~~ nutrition, or nutrition counseling.

(i) Practicing with a revoked, suspended, inactive, or delinquent license.

(j) Treating or undertaking to treat human ailments by means other than by the practice of dietetics, the practice of ~~and~~ nutrition, ~~practice~~ or nutrition counseling.

(k) Failing to maintain acceptable standards of practice as set forth by the board and the council in rules adopted pursuant to this part.

(l) Engaging directly or indirectly in the dividing, transferring, assigning, rebating, or refunding of fees received for professional services, or profiting by means of a credit or other valuable consideration, such as an unearned commission, discount, or gratuity, with any person referring a patient or with any relative or business associate of the referring person.

Nothing in this part prohibits the members of any regularly and properly organized business entity that is composed of licensees under this part and recognized under the laws of this state from making any division of their total fees among themselves as they determine necessary.

(m) Advertising, by or on behalf of a licensee under this part, any method of assessment or treatment which is experimental or without generally accepted scientific validation.

(n) Violating any provision of this chapter or chapter 456, or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.

**Section 14. Subsection (4) of section 501.0573, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

501.0573 Weight-loss provider requirements.—Each weight-loss provider shall:

(4) Provide the name, address, and qualifications of the person who has reviewed and approved the weight-loss program according to s. 468.505(1)(i) ~~s. 468.505(1)(j)~~.

**Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 501.0575, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

501.0575 Weight-Loss Consumer Bill of Rights.—

(1) The Weight-Loss Consumer Bill of Rights shall consist of the following provisions:

(A) WARNING: RAPID WEIGHT LOSS MAY CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS. RAPID WEIGHT LOSS IS WEIGHT LOSS OF MORE THAN 1 1/2

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POUNDS TO 2 POUNDS PER WEEK OR WEIGHT LOSS OF MORE THAN 1  
PERCENT OF BODY WEIGHT PER WEEK AFTER THE SECOND WEEK OF  
PARTICIPATION IN A WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM.

(B) CONSULT YOUR PERSONAL PHYSICIAN BEFORE STARTING ANY  
WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM.

(C) ONLY PERMANENT LIFESTYLE CHANGES, SUCH AS MAKING  
HEALTHFUL FOOD CHOICES AND INCREASING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, PROMOTE  
LONG-TERM WEIGHT LOSS.

(D) QUALIFICATIONS OF THIS PROVIDER ARE AVAILABLE UPON  
REQUEST.

(E) YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:

1. ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS OF THIS  
PROGRAM AND ITS NUTRITIONAL CONTENT, PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT, AND  
EDUCATIONAL COMPONENTS.

2. RECEIVE AN ITEMIZED STATEMENT OF THE ACTUAL OR  
ESTIMATED PRICE OF THE WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM, INCLUDING EXTRA  
PRODUCTS, SERVICES, SUPPLEMENTS, EXAMINATIONS, AND LABORATORY  
TESTS.

3. KNOW THE ACTUAL OR ESTIMATED DURATION OF THE PROGRAM.

4. KNOW THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE  
DIETITIAN OR NUTRITIONIST WHO HAS REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE  
WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM ACCORDING TO s. 468.505(1)(i) ~~s.~~  
~~468.505(1)(j)~~, FLORIDA STATUTES.

**Section 16.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.