

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

26 | creating s. 456.0145, F.S.; providing a short title;
 27 | requiring the applicable health care regulatory
 28 | boards, or the Department of Health if there is no
 29 | board, to issue a license or certificate to applicants
 30 | who meet specified conditions; defining the term
 31 | "scope of practice"; requiring the department to
 32 | verify certain information using the National
 33 | Practitioner Data Bank, as applicable; specifying
 34 | circumstances under which a person is ineligible for a
 35 | license; authorizing boards or the department, as
 36 | applicable, to revoke a license upon a specified
 37 | finding; requiring boards or the department, as
 38 | applicable, to issue licenses within a specified
 39 | timeframe; authorizing boards or the department, as
 40 | applicable, to require that applicants successfully
 41 | complete a jurisprudential examination under certain
 42 | circumstances; requiring the department to submit an
 43 | annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by a
 44 | specified date; providing requirements for the report;
 45 | requiring the boards and the department, as
 46 | applicable, to adopt certain rules within a specified
 47 | timeframe; amending ss. 457.105, 458.313, 464.009,
 48 | 464.203, 465.0075, 467.0125, 468.1185, 468.1705,
 49 | 468.213, 468.513, 478.47, 480.041, 484.007, 486.081,
 50 | 486.107, 490.006, and 491.006, F.S.; revising

51 licensure by endorsement requirements for the practice
 52 of acupuncture, medicine, professional or practical
 53 nursing, certified nursing assistants, pharmacy,
 54 midwifery, speech-language pathology and audiology,
 55 nursing home administration, occupational therapy,
 56 dietetics and nutrition, electrology, massage therapy,
 57 opticianry, physical therapy, physical therapist
 58 assistantship, psychology and school psychology, and
 59 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and
 60 mental health counseling, respectively; amending ss.
 61 486.031 and 486.102, F.S.; conforming provisions to
 62 changes made by the act; authorizing the boards and
 63 the Department of Health, as applicable, to continue
 64 processing applications for licensure by endorsement,
 65 as authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023), for a
 66 specified timeframe; providing an effective date.

67
 68 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

69
 70 Section 1. Subsection (15) of section 455.213, Florida
 71 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (16), and a new subsection
 72 (15) is added to that section to read:

73 455.213 General licensing provisions.—

74 (15) (a) Before the board, or the department if there is no
 75 board, may deny an application for licensure by reciprocity or

76 by endorsement, the board, or the department if there is no
 77 board, must make a finding that the basis license in another
 78 jurisdiction is or is not substantially equivalent to or is
 79 otherwise insufficient for a license in this state.

80 (b) If the board, or the department if there is no board,
 81 finds that that the basis license in another jurisdiction is not
 82 substantially equivalent to or is otherwise insufficient for a
 83 license in this state and there are no other grounds to deny the
 84 application for licensure, within 7 business days of being
 85 notified of such finding the applicant may request that the
 86 finding be submitted to the secretary for review. Within 7
 87 business days of receiving such request, the secretary must
 88 review the finding, and either agree or disagree with the
 89 finding. If the secretary agrees with the finding, the
 90 application for licensure may be denied. If the secretary
 91 disagrees with the finding, the application for licensure must
 92 be approved unless other grounds for denial exist. The decision
 93 must be entered according to the secretary's finding, unless
 94 other grounds for denial exists.

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

101 change.

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

106 Section 2. Section 1. Section 455.2135, Florida Statutes,
 107 is created to read:

108 455.2135 Interstate mobility.-

109 (1) When endorsement based on years of licensure is not
 110 otherwise provided by law in the practice act for a profession,
 111 the board, or the department if there is no board, shall allow
 112 licensure by endorsement for any individual applying who:

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

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

120 (c) Has passed the recognized national licensing exam, if
 121 such exam is established as a requirement for licensure in the
 122 profession;

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

125 (e) Shows proof of compliance with any federal regulation,

126 training, or certification, if the applicant's profession
127 requires such proof, regarding licensure in the profession;

128 (f) Completes Florida-specific continuing education
129 courses or passes a jurisprudential examination specific to the
130 state laws and rules for the applicable profession as
131 established by the board or department, if required by the
132 practice act; and

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

135 (2) If the applicant's profession requires, the applicant
136 must submit a complete set of fingerprints to the Department of
137 Law Enforcement for a statewide criminal history check. The
138 Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to
139 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal
140 history check. The department shall, and the board may, review
141 the results of the criminal history checks according to the
142 level 2 screening standards in s. 435.04 and determine whether
143 the applicant meets the licensure requirements. The costs of
144 fingerprint processing are borne by the applicant. If the
145 applicant's fingerprints are submitted through an authorized
146 agency or vendor, the agency or vendor must collect the required
147 processing fees and remit the fees to the Department of Law
148 Enforcement.

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

151 Section 3. Section 456.0145, Florida Statutes, is created
 152 to read:

153 456.0145 Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure
 154 Endorsement (MOBILE) Act.—

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

158 (2) LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT.—

159 (a) An applicable board, or the department if there is no
 160 board, shall issue a license to practice in this state to an
 161 applicant who:

162 1. Submits a complete application.

163 2. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another
 164 state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of
 165 the United States in a profession with a similar scope of
 166 practice, as determined by the board or department, as
 167 applicable. "Scope of practice" means the full spectrum of
 168 functions, procedures, actions, and services that a health care
 169 practitioner is deemed competent and authorized to perform under
 170 a license issued in this state.

171 3. Has obtained a passing score on a national licensure
 172 examination, or national certification, as applicable, for which
 173 profession the applicant is seeking licensure in this state, or
 174 meets the requirements of paragraph (b).

175 4. Has actively practiced the profession for which the

176 applicant is applying for at least 2 of the 4 years preceding
177 the date of submission of the application.

178 5. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of
179 submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary
180 proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license
181 or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons
182 related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is
183 applying.

184 6. Has not had disciplinary action taken against him or
185 her in the 5 years preceding the date of submission of the
186 application

187 7. Meets the financial responsibility requirements of s.
188 456.048 or the applicable practice act, if required for the
189 profession for which the applicant is seeking licensure.

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

193
194 The department shall verify information submitted by the
195 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner
196 Data Bank.

197 (b) An applicant for a profession that does not require a
198 national examination or national certification is eligible for
199 licensure if an applicable board or the department determines
200 that the jurisdiction in which the applicant currently holds an

201 active, unencumbered license meets established minimum education
202 requirements and, if applicable, examination, work experience,
203 and clinical supervision requirements that are substantially
204 similar to the requirements for licensure in that profession in
205 this state.

206 (c) An applicant is ineligible for a license pursuant to
207 this section if he or she:

208 1. Has a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending
209 before a licensing entity in another state, the District of
210 Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States;

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

214 3. Has had a health care provider license revoked or
215 suspended in another state of the United States, the District of
216 Columbia, or a United States territory or has voluntarily
217 surrendered any such license in lieu of having disciplinary
218 action taken against the license; or

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

222 (d) The board, or the department if there is no board, may
223 revoke a license upon finding that the applicant provided false
224 or misleading material information or intentionally omitted
225 material information in an application for licensure.

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

229 (f) The board, or the department if there is no board,
 230 shall comply with the requirements of s. 456.025.

231 (3) STATE EXAMINATION.—The board, or the department if
 232 there is no board, may require the applicant to successfully
 233 complete a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant
 234 state laws that regulate the profession, if this chapter or the
 235 applicable practice act requires such examination.

236 (4) ANNUAL REPORT.—By December 31 of each year, the
 237 department shall submit to the Governor, the President of the
 238 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report
 239 that provides all of the following information for the previous
 240 fiscal year:

241 (a) The number of applications for licensure or
 242 certification received under this section, distinguished by
 243 profession.

244 (b) The number of licenses or certifications issued under
 245 this section.

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

248 (d) The number of complaints, investigations, or other
 249 disciplinary actions taken against health care practitioners who
 250 are licensed or certified under this section.

251 (5) RULES.—By December 1, 2024, each applicable board, or
 252 the department if there is no board, shall adopt rules to
 253 implement this section.

254 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 457.105, Florida
 255 Statutes, is amended to read:

256 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

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

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

273 Section 5. Section 458.313, Florida Statutes, is amended
 274 to read:

275 458.313 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fees.—

276 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 277 any applicant who, upon applying to the department on forms
 278 furnished by the department and remitting a fee set by the board
 279 not to exceed \$500, the board certifies has met the requirements
 280 for licensure by endorsement in s. 456.0145.÷

281 ~~(a) Has met the qualifications for licensure in s.~~
 282 ~~458.311(1)(b)-(g) or in s. 458.311(1)(b)-(c) and (g) and (3);~~

283 ~~(b) Prior to January 1, 2000, has obtained a passing~~
 284 ~~score, as established by rule of the board, on the licensure~~
 285 ~~examination of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the~~
 286 ~~United States, Inc. (FLEX), on the United States Medical~~
 287 ~~Licensing Examination (USMLE), or on the examination of the~~
 288 ~~National Board of Medical Examiners, or on a combination~~
 289 ~~thereof, and on or after January 1, 2000, has obtained a passing~~
 290 ~~score on the United States Medical Licensing Examination~~
 291 ~~(USMLE); and~~

292 ~~(c) Has submitted evidence of the active licensed practice~~
 293 ~~of medicine in another jurisdiction, for at least 2 of the~~
 294 ~~immediately preceding 4 years, or evidence of successful~~
 295 ~~completion of either a board-approved postgraduate training~~
 296 ~~program within 2 years preceding filing of an application or a~~
 297 ~~board-approved clinical competency examination within the year~~
 298 ~~preceding the filing of an application for licensure. For~~
 299 ~~purposes of this paragraph, "active licensed practice of~~
 300 ~~medicine" means that practice of medicine by physicians,~~

301 ~~including those employed by any governmental entity in community~~
302 ~~or public health, as defined by this chapter, medical directors~~
303 ~~under s. 641.495(11) who are practicing medicine, and those on~~
304 ~~the active teaching faculty of an accredited medical school.~~

305 ~~(2) The board may require an applicant for licensure by~~
306 ~~endorsement to take and pass the appropriate licensure~~
307 ~~examination prior to certifying the applicant as eligible for~~
308 ~~licensure.~~

309 ~~(3) The department and the board shall ensure that~~
310 ~~applicants for licensure by endorsement meet applicable criteria~~
311 ~~in this chapter through an investigative process. When the~~
312 ~~investigative process is not completed within the time set out~~
313 ~~in s. 120.60(1) and the department or board has reason to~~
314 ~~believe that the applicant does not meet the criteria, the State~~
315 ~~Surgeon General or the State Surgeon General's designee may~~
316 ~~issue a 90-day licensure delay which shall be in writing and~~
317 ~~sufficient to notify the applicant of the reason for the delay.~~
318 ~~The provisions of this subsection shall control over any~~
319 ~~conflicting provisions of s. 120.60(1).~~

320 ~~(4) The board may promulgate rules and regulations, to be~~
321 ~~applied on a uniform and consistent basis, which may be~~
322 ~~necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.~~

323 ~~(5) Upon certification by the board, the department shall~~
324 ~~impose conditions, limitations, or restrictions on a license by~~
325 ~~endorsement if the applicant is on probation in another~~

326 ~~jurisdiction for an act which would constitute a violation of~~
327 ~~this chapter.~~

328 ~~(6) The department shall not issue a license by~~
329 ~~endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in any~~
330 ~~jurisdiction for an act or offense which would constitute a~~
331 ~~violation of this chapter until such time as the investigation~~
332 ~~is complete, at which time the provisions of s. 458.331 shall~~
333 ~~apply. Furthermore, the department may not issue an unrestricted~~
334 ~~license to any individual who has committed any act or offense~~
335 ~~in any jurisdiction which would constitute the basis for~~
336 ~~disciplining a physician pursuant to s. 458.331. When the board~~
337 ~~finds that an individual has committed an act or offense in any~~
338 ~~jurisdiction which would constitute the basis for disciplining a~~
339 ~~physician pursuant to s. 458.331, the board may enter an order~~
340 ~~imposing one or more of the terms set forth in subsection (7).~~

341 ~~(7) When the board determines that any applicant for~~
342 ~~licensure by endorsement has failed to meet, to the board's~~
343 ~~satisfaction, each of the appropriate requirements set forth in~~
344 ~~this section, it may enter an order requiring one or more of the~~
345 ~~following terms:~~

346 ~~(a) Refusal to certify to the department an application~~
347 ~~for licensure, certification, or registration;~~

348 ~~(b) Certification to the department of an application for~~
349 ~~licensure, certification, or registration with restrictions on~~
350 ~~the scope of practice of the licensee; or~~

351 ~~(c) Certification to the department of an application for~~
 352 ~~licensure, certification, or registration with placement of the~~
 353 ~~physician on probation for a period of time and subject to such~~
 354 ~~conditions as the board may specify, including, but not limited~~
 355 ~~to, requiring the physician to submit to treatment, attend~~
 356 ~~continuing education courses, submit to reexamination, or work~~
 357 ~~under the supervision of another physician.~~

358 Section 6. Section 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended
 359 to read:

360 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.—

361 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue the appropriate license by
 362 endorsement to practice professional or practical nursing to an
 363 applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting a
 364 fee set by the board not to exceed \$100, demonstrates to the
 365 board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by
 366 endorsement in s. 456.0145.÷

367 ~~(a) Holds a valid license to practice professional or~~
 368 ~~practical nursing in another state or territory of the United~~
 369 ~~States, provided that, when the applicant secured his or her~~
 370 ~~original license, the requirements for licensure were~~
 371 ~~substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those~~
 372 ~~existing in Florida at that time;~~

373 ~~(b) Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 464.008~~
 374 ~~and has successfully completed a state, regional, or national~~
 375 ~~examination which is substantially equivalent to or more~~

376 ~~stringent than the examination given by the department; or~~
 377 ~~(c) Has actively practiced nursing in another state,~~
 378 ~~jurisdiction, or territory of the United States for 2 of the~~
 379 ~~preceding 3 years without having his or her license acted~~
 380 ~~against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction.~~
 381 ~~Applicants who become licensed pursuant to this paragraph must~~
 382 ~~complete within 6 months after licensure a Florida laws and~~
 383 ~~rules course that is approved by the board. Once the department~~
 384 ~~has received the results of the national criminal history check~~
 385 ~~and has determined that the applicant has no criminal history,~~
 386 ~~the appropriate license by endorsement shall be issued to the~~
 387 ~~applicant.~~

388 ~~(2) Such examinations and requirements from other states~~
 389 ~~and territories of the United States shall be presumed to be~~
 390 ~~substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those in this~~
 391 ~~state. Such presumption shall not arise until January 1, 1980.~~
 392 ~~However, the board may, by rule, specify states and territories~~
 393 ~~the examinations and requirements of which shall not be presumed~~
 394 ~~to be substantially equivalent to those of this state.~~

395 ~~(3) An applicant for licensure by endorsement who is~~
 396 ~~relocating to this state pursuant to his or her military-~~
 397 ~~connected spouse's official military orders and who is licensed~~
 398 ~~in another state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact~~
 399 ~~shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of subsection~~
 400 ~~(1) and shall be issued a license by endorsement upon submission~~

401 ~~of the appropriate application and fees and completion of the~~
402 ~~criminal background check required under subsection (4).~~

403 ~~(4) The applicant must submit to the department a set of~~
404 ~~fingerprints on a form and under procedures specified by the~~
405 ~~department, along with a payment in an amount equal to the costs~~
406 ~~incurred by the Department of Health for the criminal background~~
407 ~~check of the applicant. The Department of Health shall submit~~
408 ~~the fingerprints provided by the applicant to the Florida~~
409 ~~Department of Law Enforcement for a statewide criminal history~~
410 ~~check, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement shall~~
411 ~~forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation~~
412 ~~for a national criminal history check of the applicant. The~~
413 ~~Department of Health shall review the results of the criminal~~
414 ~~history check, issue a license to an applicant who has met all~~
415 ~~of the other requirements for licensure and has no criminal~~
416 ~~history, and shall refer all applicants with criminal histories~~
417 ~~back to the board for determination as to whether a license~~
418 ~~should be issued and under what conditions.~~

419 ~~(5) The department shall not issue a license by~~
420 ~~endorsement to any applicant who is under investigation in~~
421 ~~another state, jurisdiction, or territory of the United States~~
422 ~~for an act which would constitute a violation of this part or~~
423 ~~chapter 456 until such time as the investigation is complete, at~~
424 ~~which time the provisions of s. 464.018 shall apply.~~

425 ~~(6) The department shall develop an electronic applicant~~

426 ~~notification process and provide electronic notification when~~
427 ~~the application has been received and when background screenings~~
428 ~~have been completed, and shall issue a license within 30 days~~
429 ~~after completion of all required data collection and~~
430 ~~verification. This 30-day period to issue a license shall be~~
431 ~~tolled if the applicant must appear before the board due to~~
432 ~~information provided on the application or obtained through~~
433 ~~screening and data collection and verification procedures.~~

434 ~~(7) A person holding an active multistate license in~~
435 ~~another state pursuant to s. 464.0095 is exempt from the~~
436 ~~requirements for licensure by endorsement in this section.~~

437 Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
438 464.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

439 464.203 Certified nursing assistants; certification
440 requirement.—

441 (1) The board shall issue a certificate to practice as a
442 certified nursing assistant to any person who demonstrates a
443 minimum competency to read and write and successfully passes the
444 required background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. If the
445 person has successfully passed the required background screening
446 pursuant to s. 400.215 or s. 408.809 within 90 days before
447 applying for a certificate to practice and the person's
448 background screening results are not retained in the
449 clearinghouse created under s. 435.12, the board shall waive the
450 requirement that the applicant successfully pass an additional

451 background screening pursuant to s. 400.215. The person must
 452 also meet one of the following requirements:

453 (c) Has been deemed by the board as eligible for licensure
 454 by endorsement pursuant to s. 456.0145 ~~Is currently certified in~~
 455 ~~another state or territory of the United States or in the~~
 456 ~~District of Columbia; is listed on that jurisdiction's certified~~
 457 ~~nursing assistant registry; and has not been found to have~~
 458 ~~committed abuse, neglect, or exploitation in that jurisdiction.~~

459 Section 8. Section 465.0075, Florida Statutes, is amended
 460 to read:

461 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—

462 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 463 any applicant who applies to the department and remits a
 464 nonrefundable fee of not more than \$100, as set by the board,
 465 and whom the board certifies has met the requirements for
 466 licensure by endorsement in s. 456.0145.÷

467 ~~(a) Has met the qualifications for licensure in s.~~
 468 ~~465.007(1) (b) and (c);~~

469 ~~(b) Has obtained a passing score, as established by rule~~
 470 ~~of the board, on the licensure examination of the National~~
 471 ~~Association of Boards of Pharmacy or a similar nationally~~
 472 ~~recognized examination, if the board certifies that the~~
 473 ~~applicant has taken the required examination;~~

474 ~~(c)1. Has submitted evidence of the active licensed~~
 475 ~~practice of pharmacy, including practice in community or public~~

476 ~~health by persons employed by a governmental entity, in another~~
477 ~~jurisdiction for at least 2 of the immediately preceding 5 years~~
478 ~~or evidence of successful completion of board-approved~~
479 ~~postgraduate training or a board-approved clinical competency~~
480 ~~examination within the year immediately preceding application~~
481 ~~for licensure; or~~

482 ~~2. Has completed an internship meeting the requirements of~~
483 ~~s. 465.007(1)(c) within the 2 years immediately preceding~~
484 ~~application; and~~

485 ~~(d) Has obtained a passing score on the pharmacy~~
486 ~~jurisprudence portions of the licensure examination, as required~~
487 ~~by board rule.~~

488 ~~(2) An applicant licensed in another state for a period in~~
489 ~~excess of 2 years from the date of application for licensure in~~
490 ~~this state shall submit a total of at least 30 hours of board-~~
491 ~~approved continuing education for the 2 calendar years~~
492 ~~immediately preceding application.~~

493 ~~(3) The department may not issue a license by endorsement~~
494 ~~to any applicant who is under investigation in any jurisdiction~~
495 ~~for an act or offense that would constitute a violation of this~~
496 ~~chapter until the investigation is complete, at which time the~~
497 ~~provisions of s. 465.016 apply.~~

498 ~~(4) The department may not issue a license by endorsement~~
499 ~~to any applicant whose license to practice pharmacy has been~~
500 ~~suspended or revoked in another state or who is currently the~~

501 ~~subject of any disciplinary proceeding in another state.~~

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

504 467.0125 Licensed midwives; qualifications; endorsement;
 505 temporary certificates.—

506 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 507 practice midwifery to an applicant who, ~~upon applying to the~~
 508 ~~department,~~ demonstrates to the department that she or he meets
 509 all of the requirements for licensure by endorsement in s.
 510 456.0145 and submits following criteria:

511 ~~(a) Holds an active, unencumbered license to practice~~
 512 ~~midwifery in another state, jurisdiction, or territory, provided~~
 513 ~~the licensing requirements of that state, jurisdiction, or~~
 514 ~~territory at the time the license was issued were substantially~~
 515 ~~equivalent to or exceeded those established under this chapter~~
 516 ~~and the rules adopted hereunder.~~

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

519 ~~(c) Submits~~ an application for licensure on a form
 520 approved by the department and pays the appropriate fee.

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

523 468.1185 Licensure.—

524 ~~(3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by~~
 525 ~~endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist an~~

526 ~~applicant who:~~

527 ~~(a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state~~
 528 ~~or territory of the United States to practice the profession for~~
 529 ~~which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for~~
 530 ~~issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or~~
 531 ~~more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this~~
 532 ~~state at the time the license was issued; or~~

533 ~~—— (b) Holds a valid certificate of clinical competence of~~
 534 ~~the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association or board~~
 535 ~~certification in audiology from the American Board of Audiology.~~

536 ~~—— (4) The board may refuse to certify any applicant who is~~
 537 ~~under investigation in any jurisdiction for an act which would~~
 538 ~~constitute a violation of this part or chapter 456 until the~~
 539 ~~investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been~~
 540 ~~terminated.~~

541 Section 11. Subsection (4) of section 468.1705, Florida
 542 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (3) and subsections (1),
 543 (2), and (3) of that section are amended, to read:

544 468.1705 Licensure by endorsement; temporary license.—

545 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 546 any applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting
 547 a fee set by the board not to exceed \$500, demonstrates to the
 548 board that he or she meets the requirements for licensure by
 549 endorsement in s. 456.0145;

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

551 ~~1. Holds a valid active license to practice nursing home~~
552 ~~administration in another state of the United States, provided~~
553 ~~that the current requirements for licensure in that state are~~
554 ~~substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, current~~
555 ~~requirements in this state; or~~

556 ~~2. Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 468.1695;~~
557 ~~and~~

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

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

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

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

570 ~~(2)-(3)~~ The department may ~~shall~~ not issue a ~~license by~~
571 ~~endorsement or~~ a temporary license to any applicant who is under
572 investigation in this or another state for any act which would
573 constitute a violation of this part until such time as the
574 investigation is complete and disciplinary proceedings have been
575 terminated.

576 Section 12. Section 468.213, Florida Statutes, is
 577 repealed.

578 Section 13. Section 468.513, Florida Statutes, is amended
 579 to read:

580 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—

581 ~~(1)~~ The department shall issue a license to practice
 582 dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who
 583 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 584 456.0145 ~~the board certifies as qualified,~~ upon receipt of a
 585 completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.

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

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

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

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

601 Section 14. Section 478.47, Florida Statutes, is amended
 602 to read:

603 478.47 Licensure by endorsement.—The department shall
 604 issue a license by endorsement to any applicant who, upon
 605 submitting ~~submits~~ an application and the required fees as set
 606 forth in s. 478.55, demonstrates to the board that he or she
 607 meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 608 456.0145 and who holds an active license or other authority to
 609 ~~practice electrology in a jurisdiction whose licensure~~
 610 ~~requirements are determined by the board to be equivalent to the~~
 611 ~~requirements for licensure in this state.~~

612 Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section
 613 480.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

614 480.041 Massage therapists; qualifications; licensure;
 615 endorsement.—

616 (5) The board shall adopt rules:

617 (c) Specifying licensing procedures for practitioners
 618 desiring to be licensed in this state who meet the requirements
 619 for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145 or hold an active
 620 ~~license and have practiced in any other state, territory, or~~
 621 ~~jurisdiction of the United States or any foreign national~~
 622 ~~jurisdiction which has licensing standards substantially similar~~
 623 ~~to, equivalent to, or more stringent than the standards of this~~
 624 ~~state.~~

625 Section 16. Present subsections (3) and (4) of section

626 484.007, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)
 627 and (5), respectively, a new subsection (3) is added to that
 628 section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to read:

629 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical
 630 establishments.—

631 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply
 632 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a
 633 licensure examination. The department shall examine each
 634 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following
 635 criteria:

636 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a
 637 nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of
 638 \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the
 639 amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the
 640 department for purchase of portions of the examination from the
 641 American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization,
 642 or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant
 643 ineligible to take the examination. †

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

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

648 (d)1. Has received an associate degree, or its equivalent,
 649 in opticianry from an educational institution the curriculum of
 650 which is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized and

651 approved by the United States Department of Education or the
 652 Council on Postsecondary Education or approved by the board;

653 ~~2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of~~
 654 ~~opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another~~
 655 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has~~
 656 ~~actively practiced in such other state, territory, or~~
 657 ~~jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding~~
 658 ~~application, and who meets the examination qualifications as~~
 659 ~~provided in this subsection;~~

660 ~~3. Is an individual who has actively practiced in another~~
 661 ~~state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for more~~
 662 ~~than 5 years immediately preceding application and who provides~~
 663 ~~tax or business records, affidavits, or other satisfactory~~
 664 ~~documentation of such practice and who meets the examination~~
 665 ~~qualifications as provided in this subsection; or~~

666 2.4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department
 667 and paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of
 668 the board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training
 669 under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for
 670 at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under
 671 the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5
 672 years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in
 673 a recognized school may be considered as part of the
 674 apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish
 675 administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of

676 administering apprentice rules as promulgated by the board.

677 (3) The board shall certify to the department for
 678 licensure by endorsement any applicant who meets the
 679 requirements for licensure by endorsement under s. 456.0145.

680 Section 17. Section 486.081, Florida Statutes, is amended
 681 to read:

682 486.081 Physical therapist; endorsement; ~~issuance of~~
 683 ~~license without examination to person passing examination of~~
 684 ~~another authorized examining board; fee.-~~

685 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be
 686 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any
 687 applicant who presents evidence satisfactory to the board of
 688 meeting the requirements for licensure by endorsement in s.
 689 456.0145 having passed the American Registry Examination prior
 690 ~~to 1971 or an examination in physical therapy before a similar~~
 691 ~~lawfully authorized examining board of another state, the~~
 692 ~~District of Columbia, a territory, or a foreign country, if the~~
 693 ~~standards for licensure in physical therapy in such other state,~~
 694 ~~district, territory, or foreign country are determined by the~~
 695 ~~board to be as high as those of this state, as established by~~
 696 ~~rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.~~ Any person who holds a
 697 license pursuant to this section may use the words "physical
 698 therapist" or "physiotherapist" or the letters "P.T." in
 699 connection with her or his name or place of business to denote
 700 her or his licensure hereunder. A person who holds a license

701 pursuant to this section and obtains a doctoral degree in
 702 physical therapy may use the letters "D.P.T." and "P.T." A
 703 physical therapist who holds a degree of Doctor of Physical
 704 Therapy may not use the title "doctor" without also clearly
 705 informing the public of his or her profession as a physical
 706 therapist.

707 (2) At the time of making application for licensure by
 708 endorsement under ~~without examination pursuant to the terms of~~
 709 this section, the applicant shall pay to the department a fee
 710 not to exceed \$175 as fixed by the board, no part of which will
 711 be returned.

712 Section 18. Section 486.107, Florida Statutes, is amended
 713 to read:

714 486.107 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of license
 715 by endorsement ~~without examination to person licensed in another~~
 716 ~~jurisdiction; fee.-~~

717 (1) The board may cause a license by endorsement to be
 718 issued through the department ~~without examination~~ to any
 719 applicant who presents evidence to the board, under oath, of
 720 meeting the requirements for licensure by endorsement under s.
 721 456.0145 licensure in another state, the District of Columbia,
 722 ~~or a territory, if the standards for registering as a physical~~
 723 ~~therapist assistant or licensing of a physical therapist~~
 724 ~~assistant, as the case may be, in such other state are~~
 725 ~~determined by the board to be as high as those of this state, as~~

726 ~~established by rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.~~ Any
727 person who holds a license pursuant to this section may use the
728 words "physical therapist assistant," or the letters "P.T.A.,"
729 in connection with her or his name to denote licensure
730 hereunder.

731 (2) At the time of making application for licensure by
732 endorsement under ~~licensing without examination pursuant to the~~
733 ~~terms of~~ this section, the applicant shall pay to the department
734 a nonrefundable fee set by the board in an amount not to exceed
735 \$175 ~~as fixed by the board, no part of which will be returned.~~

736 Section 19. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section
737 490.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

738 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

739 (1) The department shall license a person as a
740 psychologist or school psychologist who, upon applying to the
741 department and remitting the appropriate fee, demonstrates to
742 the department or, in the case of psychologists, to the board
743 that the applicant meets the requirements for licensure by
744 endorsement under s. 456.0145÷

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

747 ~~(b) Possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has at~~
748 ~~least 10 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any~~
749 ~~jurisdiction or territory of the United States within the 25~~
750 ~~years preceding the date of application.~~

751 ~~(2) In addition to meeting the requirements for licensure~~
 752 ~~set forth in subsection (1), an applicant must pass that portion~~
 753 ~~of the psychology or school psychology licensure examinations~~
 754 ~~pertaining to the laws and rules related to the practice of~~
 755 ~~psychology or school psychology in this state before the~~
 756 ~~department may issue a license to the applicant.~~

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

763 Section 20. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 491.006,
 764 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

765 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—

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

771 ~~(a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of~~
 772 ~~the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the~~
 773 ~~practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,~~
 774 ~~and mental health counseling.~~

775 ~~(b)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has~~

776 ~~actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for~~
 777 ~~3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;~~

778 ~~2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing~~
 779 ~~examination in another state or has passed the licensure~~
 780 ~~examination in this state in the profession for which the~~
 781 ~~applicant seeks licensure; and~~

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

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

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

794 Section 21. Subsection (3) of section 468.209, Florida
 795 Statutes, is amended to read:

796 468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

797 (3) If the board determines that an applicant is qualified
 798 to be licensed by endorsement under s. 456.0145 ~~s. 468.213~~, the
 799 board may issue the applicant a temporary permit to practice
 800 occupational therapy until the next board meeting at which

801 license applications are to be considered, but not for a longer
802 period of time. Only one temporary permit by endorsement shall
803 be issued to an applicant, and it shall not be renewable.

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

806 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be
807 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant
808 must:

809 (3)(a) Have been graduated from a school of physical
810 therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation
811 of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency
812 recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary
813 Accreditation or the United States Department of Education at
814 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the
815 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination
816 prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to
817 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
818 therapist as hereinafter provided;

819 (b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical
820 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials
821 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational
822 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as
823 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,
824 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination
825 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical

826 therapist as hereinafter provided; or

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

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

831 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing
832 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a
833 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must:

834 (3)(a) Have been graduated from a school giving a course
835 of not less than 2 years for physical therapist assistants,
836 which has been approved for the educational preparation of
837 physical therapist assistants by the appropriate accrediting
838 agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition of
839 Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States Department of
840 Education, at the time of her or his graduation and have passed
841 to the satisfaction of the board an examination to determine her
842 or his fitness for practice as a physical therapist assistant as
843 hereinafter provided;

844 (b) Have been graduated from a school giving a course for
845 physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have
846 educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for
847 the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in
848 this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as
849 identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the
850 board an examination to determine her or his fitness for

851 practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter
 852 provided;

853 (c) Be entitled to licensure by endorsement or without
 854 examination as provided in s. 486.107; or

855 (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,
 856 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state
 857 which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

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

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

863 Section 22. Notwithstanding the changes made to the
 864 Florida Statutes (2023) by this act, a board as defined in s.
 865 456.001, Florida Statutes, or the Department of Health, as
 866 applicable, may continue processing applications for licensure
 867 by endorsement as authorized under the Florida Statutes (2023)
 868 until the rules adopted by such board or the department to
 869 implement the changes made by this act take effect or until 6
 870 months after the effective date of this act, whichever occurs
 871 first.

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

873