

26 assistants; occupational therapist and occupational
 27 therapy assistant licenses by endorsement; respiratory
 28 therapists; respiratory therapist licenses by
 29 endorsement; dietitian/nutritionists;
 30 dietitian/nutritionist licenses by endorsement;
 31 practitioners of orthotics, prosthetics, or
 32 pedorthics; electrologists; clinical laboratory
 33 personnel; medical physicists; genetic counselors;
 34 opticians; hearing aid specialists; physical
 35 therapists; physical therapist assistants;
 36 psychologists and school psychologists; provisional
 37 licenses for psychologists; psychologist and school
 38 psychologist licenses by endorsement; intern
 39 registrations for clinical social work, marriage and
 40 family therapy, and mental health counseling;
 41 provisional licenses for clinical social workers,
 42 marriage and family therapists, and mental health
 43 counselors; clinical social workers, marriage and
 44 family therapists, and mental health counselors; and
 45 clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist,
 46 and mental health counselor licenses by endorsement,
 47 respectively, to include background screening
 48 requirements; making conforming and technical changes;
 49 amending ss. 486.025, 486.0715, 486.1065, and 491.003,
 50 F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an

51 appropriation; providing an effective date.

52

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

54

55 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 456.0135, Florida
 56 Statutes, is amended to read:

57 456.0135 General background screening provisions.—

58 (1) An application for initial licensure received on or
 59 after January 1, 2013, under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter
 60 460, chapter 461, chapter 462, chapter 463, chapter 464, chapter
 61 465 s. 465.022, chapter 466, chapter 467, part I, part II, part
 62 III, part V, part X, part XIII, or part XIV of chapter 468,
 63 chapter 478, ~~or~~ chapter 480, chapter 483, chapter 484, chapter
 64 486, chapter 490, or chapter 491 must ~~shall~~ include fingerprints
 65 pursuant to procedures established by the department through a
 66 vendor approved by the Department of Law Enforcement and fees
 67 imposed for the initial screening and retention of fingerprints.
 68 Fingerprints must be submitted electronically to the Department
 69 of Law Enforcement for state processing, and the Department of
 70 Law Enforcement shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal
 71 Bureau of Investigation for national processing. Each board, or
 72 the department if there is no board, must ~~shall~~ screen the
 73 results to determine whether ~~if~~ an applicant meets licensure
 74 requirements. For any subsequent renewal of the applicant's
 75 license which ~~that~~ requires a national criminal history check,

76 | the department shall request the Department of Law Enforcement
 77 | to forward the retained fingerprints of the applicant to the
 78 | Federal Bureau of Investigation unless the fingerprints are
 79 | enrolled in the national retained print arrest notification
 80 | program.

81 | Section 2. Health care practitioners as defined in s.
 82 | 456.001, Florida Statutes, who were licensed before July 1,
 83 | 2024, must comply with the background screening requirements of
 84 | s. 456.0135, Florida Statutes, by July 1, 2025.

85 | Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 457.105, Florida
 86 | Statutes, is amended to read:

87 | 457.105 Licensure qualifications and fees.—

88 | (2) A person may become licensed to practice acupuncture
 89 | if the person applies to the department and meets all of the
 90 | following criteria:

91 | (a) Is 21 years of age or older, has good moral character,
 92 | and has the ability to communicate in English, which is
 93 | demonstrated by having passed the national written examination
 94 | in English or, if such examination was passed in a foreign
 95 | language, by also having passed a nationally recognized English
 96 | proficiency examination.†

97 | (b) Has completed 60 college credits from an accredited
 98 | postsecondary institution as a prerequisite to enrollment in an
 99 | authorized 3-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental
 100 | medicine, and has completed a 3-year course of study in

101 acupuncture and oriental medicine, and effective July 31, 2001,
102 a 4-year course of study in acupuncture and oriental medicine,
103 which meets standards established by the board by rule, which
104 standards include, but are not limited to, successful completion
105 of academic courses in western anatomy, western physiology,
106 western pathology, western biomedical terminology, first aid,
107 and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). However, any person who
108 enrolled in an authorized course of study in acupuncture before
109 August 1, 1997, must have completed only a 2-year course of
110 study which meets standards established by the board by rule,
111 which standards must include, but are not limited to, successful
112 completion of academic courses in western anatomy, western
113 physiology, and western pathology.†

114 (c) Has successfully completed a board-approved national
115 certification process, is actively licensed in a state that has
116 examination requirements that are substantially equivalent to or
117 more stringent than those of this state, or passes an
118 examination administered by the department, which examination
119 tests the applicant's competency and knowledge of the practice
120 of acupuncture and oriental medicine. At the request of any
121 applicant, oriental nomenclature for the points must ~~shall~~ be
122 used in the examination. The examination must ~~shall~~ include a
123 practical examination of the knowledge and skills required to
124 practice modern and traditional acupuncture and oriental
125 medicine, covering diagnostic and treatment techniques and

126 | procedures, ~~and~~

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

129 | 1. Examination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant
130 | cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical
131 | portions of the examination from a national organization
132 | approved by the board.

133 | 2. Application fee: \$300.

134 | 3. Reexamination fee: \$500 plus the actual per applicant
135 | cost to the department for purchase of the written and practical
136 | portions of the examination from a national organization
137 | approved by the board.

138 | 4. Initial biennial licensure fee: \$400, if licensed in
139 | the first half of the biennium, and \$200, if licensed in the
140 | second half of the biennium.

141 | (e) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
142 | 456.0135.

143 | Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 463.006, Florida
144 | Statutes, is amended to read:

145 | 463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.—

146 | (1) Any person desiring to be a licensed practitioner
147 | under ~~pursuant to~~ this chapter must apply to the department,
148 | submit to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135,
149 | and ~~must~~ submit proof to the department that she or he meets all
150 | of the following criteria:

151 (a) Has completed the application forms as required by the
152 board, remitted an application fee for certification not to
153 exceed \$250, remitted an examination fee for certification not
154 to exceed \$250, and remitted an examination fee for licensure
155 not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

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

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

159 (d) Is of good moral character.

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

164 1. Has facilities for both didactic and clinical
165 instructions in pharmacology; and

166 2. Is accredited by a regional or professional accrediting
167 organization that is recognized and approved by the Commission
168 on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United
169 States Department of Education.

170 (f) Has completed at least 1 year of supervised experience
171 in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of
172 the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the
173 optometric experience.

174 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 465.007, Florida
175 Statutes, is amended to read:

176 465.007 Licensure by examination.—

177 (1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a pharmacist
178 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examination.
179 The department shall examine each applicant who the board
180 certifies has met all of the following criteria:

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

188 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
189 s. 456.0135.

190 (c) Submitted satisfactory proof that she or he is not
191 less than 18 years of age and:

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

195 2. Is a graduate of a 4-year undergraduate pharmacy
196 program of a school or college of pharmacy located outside the
197 United States, has demonstrated proficiency in English by
198 passing both the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
199 and the Test of Spoken English (TSE), has passed the Foreign
200 Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination that is approved by

201 rule of the board, and has completed a minimum of 500 hours in a
 202 supervised work activity program within this state under the
 203 supervision of a pharmacist licensed by the department, which
 204 program is approved by the board.

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

209 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 465.0075, Florida
 210 Statutes, is amended to read:

211 465.0075 Licensure by endorsement; requirements; fee.—

212 (1) The department shall issue a license by endorsement to
 213 any applicant who applies to the department and remits a
 214 nonrefundable fee of not more than \$100, as set by the board,
 215 and who whom the board certifies has met all of the following
 216 criteria:

217 (a) ~~Has~~ Met the qualifications for licensure in s.
 218 465.007(1)(b), ~~and~~ (c), and (d).~~†~~

219 (b) ~~Has~~ Obtained a passing score, as established by rule
 220 of the board, on the licensure examination of the National
 221 Association of Boards of Pharmacy or a similar nationally
 222 recognized examination, if the board certifies that the
 223 applicant has taken the required examination.~~†~~

224 (c)1. ~~Has~~ Submitted evidence of the active licensed
 225 practice of pharmacy, including practice in community or public

226 health by persons employed by a governmental entity, in another
 227 jurisdiction for at least 2 of the immediately preceding 5 years
 228 or evidence of successful completion of board-approved
 229 postgraduate training or a board-approved clinical competency
 230 examination within the year immediately preceding application
 231 for licensure; or

232 2. ~~Has~~ Completed an internship meeting the requirements of
 233 s. 465.007(1)(d) ~~s. 465.007(1)(c)~~ within the 2 years immediately
 234 preceding application. ~~;~~ and

235 (d) ~~Has~~ Obtained a passing score on the pharmacy
 236 jurisprudence portions of the licensure examination, as required
 237 by board rule.

238 Section 7. Section 465.013, Florida Statutes, is amended
 239 to read:

240 465.013 Registration of pharmacy interns.—The department
 241 shall register as pharmacy interns persons certified by the
 242 board as being enrolled in an intern program at an accredited
 243 school or college of pharmacy or who are graduates of accredited
 244 schools or colleges of pharmacy and are not yet licensed in the
 245 state. Applicants for registration must submit to background
 246 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. The board may refuse
 247 to certify to the department or may revoke the registration of
 248 any intern for good cause, including grounds enumerated in this
 249 chapter for revocation of pharmacists' licenses.

250 Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 465.014, Florida

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251 Statutes, is amended to read:

252 465.014 Pharmacy technician.—

253 (2) Any person who wishes to work as a pharmacy technician
254 in this state must register by filing an application with the
255 board on a form adopted by rule of the board and submit to
256 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. The board
257 shall register each applicant who has remitted a registration
258 fee set by the board, not to exceed \$50 biennially; has
259 completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable
260 application fee set by the board, not to exceed \$50; has
261 submitted to background screening; is at least 17 years of age;
262 and has completed a pharmacy technician training program
263 approved by the Board of Pharmacy. Notwithstanding any
264 requirements in this subsection, any registered pharmacy
265 technician registered pursuant to this section before January 1,
266 2011, who has worked as a pharmacy technician for a minimum of
267 1,500 hours under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist or
268 received certification as a pharmacy technician by certification
269 program accredited by the National Commission for Certifying
270 Agencies is exempt from the requirement to complete an initial
271 training program for purposes of registration as required by
272 this subsection.

273 Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
274 466.006, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

275 466.006 Examination of dentists.—

276 (1)
 277 (b)1. Any person desiring to be licensed as a dentist
 278 shall apply to the department to take the licensure examinations
 279 and shall verify the information required on the application by
 280 oath. The application must ~~shall~~ include two recent photographs.
 281 There shall be an application fee set by the board not to exceed
 282 \$100 which shall be nonrefundable and. ~~There shall also be an~~
 283 ~~examination fee set by the board, which shall not to~~ exceed \$425
 284 plus the actual per applicant cost to the department for
 285 purchase of some or all of the examination from the American
 286 Board of Dental Examiners or its successor entity, if any,
 287 provided the board finds the successor entity's clinical
 288 examination complies with ~~the provisions of~~ this section. The
 289 examination fee may be refunded ~~refundable~~ if the applicant is
 290 found ineligible to take the examinations.

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

293 Section 10. Section 466.0067, Florida Statutes, is amended
 294 to read:

295 466.0067 Application for health access dental license.—The
 296 Legislature finds that there is an important state interest in
 297 attracting dentists to practice in underserved health access
 298 settings in this state and further, that allowing out-of-state
 299 dentists who meet certain criteria to practice in health access
 300 settings without the supervision of a dentist licensed in this

301 state is substantially related to achieving this important state
 302 interest. Therefore, notwithstanding the requirements of s.
 303 466.006, the board shall grant a health access dental license to
 304 practice dentistry in this state in health access settings as
 305 defined in s. 466.003 to an applicant who meets all of the
 306 following criteria:

307 (1) Files an appropriate application approved by the
 308 board.~~†~~

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

313 (3) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 314 with s. 456.0135 and has not been convicted of or pled nolo
 315 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or
 316 misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care
 317 profession.~~†~~

318 (4) Submits proof of graduation from a dental school
 319 accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the
 320 American Dental Association or its successor agency.~~†~~

321 (5) Submits documentation that she or he has completed, or
 322 will obtain before licensure, continuing education equivalent to
 323 this state's requirement for dentists licensed under s. 466.006
 324 for the last full reporting biennium before applying for a
 325 health access dental license.~~†~~

326 (6) Submits proof of her or his successful completion of
 327 parts I and II of the dental examination by the National Board
 328 of Dental Examiners and a state or regional clinical dental
 329 licensing examination that the board has determined effectively
 330 measures the applicant's ability to practice safely.‡

331 (7) Currently holds a valid, active dental license in good
 332 standing which has not been revoked, suspended, restricted, or
 333 otherwise disciplined from another of the United States, the
 334 District of Columbia, or a United States territory.‡

335 (8) Has never had a license revoked from another of the
 336 United States, the District of Columbia, or a United States
 337 territory.‡

338 (9) Has never failed the examination specified in s.
 339 466.006, unless the applicant was reexamined pursuant to s.
 340 466.006 and received a license to practice dentistry in this
 341 state.‡

342 (10) Has not been reported to the National Practitioner
 343 Data Bank, unless the applicant successfully appealed to have
 344 his or her name removed from the data bank.‡

345 (11) Submits proof that he or she has been engaged in the
 346 active, clinical practice of dentistry providing direct patient
 347 care for 5 years immediately preceding the date of application,
 348 or in instances when the applicant has graduated from an
 349 accredited dental school within the preceding 5 years, submits
 350 proof of continuous clinical practice providing direct patient

351 care since graduation.~~;~~ ~~and~~

352 (12) Has passed an examination covering the laws and rules
 353 of the practice of dentistry in this state as described in s.
 354 466.006(4) (a).

355 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 466.007, Florida
 356 Statutes, is amended to read:

357 466.007 Examination of dental hygienists.—

358 (1)1. Any person desiring to be licensed as a dental
 359 hygienist shall apply to the department to take the licensure
 360 examinations and shall verify the information required on the
 361 application by oath. The application must ~~shall~~ include two
 362 recent photographs of the applicant. There shall be a
 363 nonrefundable application fee set by the board not to exceed
 364 \$100 and an examination fee set by the board ~~which shall~~ not to
 365 exceed ~~be more than~~ \$225. The examination fee may be refunded if
 366 the applicant is found ineligible to take the examinations.

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

369 Section 12. Subsection (5) is added to section 467.011,
 370 Florida Statutes, to read:

371 467.011 Licensed midwives; qualifications; examination.—

372 The department shall issue a license to practice midwifery to an
 373 applicant who meets all of the following criteria:

374 (5) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
 375 456.0135.

376 Section 13. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 468.1185,
 377 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

378 468.1185 Licensure.—

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

381 (a) Satisfied the education and supervised clinical
 382 requirements of s. 468.1155.

383 (b) Satisfied the professional experience requirement of
 384 s. 468.1165.

385 (c) Passed the licensure examination required by s.
 386 468.1175.

387 (d) For an applicant for an audiologist license who has
 388 obtained a doctoral degree in audiology, has satisfied the
 389 education and supervised clinical requirements of paragraph (a)
 390 and the professional experience requirements of paragraph (b).

391 (e) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 392 s. 456.0135.

393 (3) The board shall certify as qualified for a license by
 394 endorsement as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist an
 395 applicant who:

396 (a) Holds a valid license or certificate in another state
 397 or territory of the United States to practice the profession for
 398 which the application for licensure is made, if the criteria for
 399 issuance of such license were substantially equivalent to or
 400 more stringent than the licensure criteria which existed in this

401 state at the time the license was issued; or

402 (b) Holds a valid certificate of clinical competence of
 403 the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association or board
 404 certification in audiology from the American Board of Audiology;
 405 and

406 (c) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
 407 456.0135.

408 Section 14. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.1215,
 409 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

410 468.1215 Speech-language pathology assistant and audiology
 411 assistant; certification.—

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

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

417 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 418 s. 456.0135.

419 (c) Earned a bachelor's degree from a college or
 420 university accredited by a regional association of colleges and
 421 schools recognized by the Department of Education which includes
 422 at least 24 semester hours of coursework as approved by the
 423 board at an institution accredited by an accrediting agency
 424 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

425 (2) The department shall issue a certificate as an

426 audiology assistant to each applicant who the board certifies
427 has met all of the following criteria:

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

430 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
431 s. 456.0135.

432 (c) Earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.

433 Section 15. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of
434 section 468.1695, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
435 subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection
436 (2) is added to that section, and present subsection (2) of that
437 section is amended, to read:

438 468.1695 Licensure by examination.—

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

441 ~~(3)-(2)~~ The department shall examine each applicant who the
442 board certifies has completed the application form, submitted to
443 background screening, and remitted an examination fee set by the
444 board not to exceed \$250 and who:

445 (a)1. Holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited
446 college or university and majored in health care administration,
447 health services administration, or an equivalent major, or has
448 credit for at least 60 semester hours in subjects, as prescribed
449 by rule of the board, which prepare the applicant for total
450 management of a nursing home; and

451 2. Has fulfilled the requirements of a college-affiliated
 452 or university-affiliated internship in nursing home
 453 administration or of a 1,000-hour nursing home administrator-in-
 454 training program prescribed by the board; or

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

457 2.a. Has fulfilled the requirements of a 2,000-hour
 458 nursing home administrator-in-training program prescribed by the
 459 board; or

460 b. Has 1 year of management experience allowing for the
 461 application of executive duties and skills, including the
 462 staffing, budgeting, and directing of resident care, dietary,
 463 and bookkeeping departments within a skilled nursing facility,
 464 hospital, hospice, assisted living facility with a minimum of 60
 465 licensed beds, or geriatric residential treatment program and,
 466 if such experience is not in a skilled nursing facility, has
 467 fulfilled the requirements of a 1,000-hour nursing home
 468 administrator-in-training program prescribed by the board.

469 Section 16. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 468.209,
 470 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

471 468.209 Requirements for licensure.—

472 (1) An applicant applying for a license as an occupational
 473 therapist or as an occupational therapy assistant shall apply to
 474 the department on forms furnished by the department. The
 475 department shall license each applicant who the board certifies

476 meets all of the following criteria:

477 (a) Has completed the file a written application form and
478 remitted, ~~accompanied by~~ the application for licensure fee
479 prescribed in s. 468.221.

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

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

484 (d)-(b) Has successfully completed the academic
485 requirements of an educational program in occupational therapy
486 recognized by the board, with concentration in biologic or
487 physical science, psychology, and sociology, and with education
488 in selected manual skills. Such a program shall be accredited by
489 the American Occupational Therapy Association's Accreditation
490 Council for Occupational Therapy Education, or its successor.

491 (e)-(e) Has successfully completed a period of supervised
492 fieldwork experience at a recognized educational institution or
493 a training program approved by the educational institution where
494 she or he met the academic requirements. For an occupational
495 therapist, a minimum of 6 months of supervised fieldwork
496 experience is required. For an occupational therapy assistant, a
497 minimum of 2 months of supervised fieldwork experience is
498 required.

499 (f)-(d) Has passed an examination conducted or adopted by
500 the board as provided in s. 468.211.

501 (2) An applicant who has practiced as a state-licensed or
 502 American Occupational Therapy Association-certified occupational
 503 therapy assistant for 4 years and who, before January 24, 1988,
 504 completed a minimum of 24 weeks of supervised occupational-
 505 therapist-level fieldwork experience may take the examination to
 506 be licensed as an occupational therapist without meeting the
 507 educational requirements for occupational therapists made
 508 otherwise applicable under paragraph (1) (d) ~~(1) (b)~~.

509 Section 17. Subsection (3) is added to section 468.213,
 510 Florida Statutes, to read:

511 468.213 Licensure by endorsement.—

512 (3) Applicants for licensure by endorsement must submit to
 513 background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

514 Section 18. Section 468.355, Florida Statutes, is amended
 515 to read:

516 468.355 Licensure requirements.—To be eligible for
 517 licensure by the board, an applicant must be an active
 518 "certified respiratory therapist" or an active "registered
 519 respiratory therapist" as designated by the National Board for
 520 Respiratory Care, or its successor, and submit to background
 521 screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

522 Section 19. Subsection (4) of section 468.358, Florida
 523 Statutes, is amended to read:

524 468.358 Licensure by endorsement.—

525 (4) Applicants for licensure ~~shall not be granted by~~

526 | endorsement under as provided in this section must submit
 527 | ~~without the submission of a proper application, remit and the~~
 528 | ~~payment of the requisite application fee, and submit to~~
 529 | background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135 fees
 530 | ~~therefor.~~

531 | Section 20. Present subsections (2), (3), and (4) of
 532 | section 468.509, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 533 | subsections (3), (4), and (5), respectively, a new subsection
 534 | (2) is added to that section, and present subsection (2) of that
 535 | section is amended, to read:

536 | 468.509 Dietitian/nutritionist; requirements for
 537 | licensure.—

538 | (2) Applicants for licensure must also submit to
 539 | background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135.

540 | (3)-(2) The department shall examine any applicant who the
 541 | board certifies has completed the application form, submitted to
 542 | background screening, and remitted the application and
 543 | examination fees specified in s. 468.508 and who:

544 | (a)1. Possesses a baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate
 545 | degree with a major course of study in human nutrition, food and
 546 | nutrition, dietetics, or food management, or an equivalent major
 547 | course of study, from a school or program accredited, at the
 548 | time of the applicant's graduation, by the appropriate
 549 | accrediting agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition
 550 | of Postsecondary Accreditation and the United States Department

551 of Education; and

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

555 (b)1. Has an academic degree, from a foreign country, that
 556 has been validated by an accrediting agency approved by the
 557 United States Department of Education as equivalent to the
 558 baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate degree conferred by a
 559 regionally accredited college or university in the United
 560 States;

561 2. Has completed a major course of study in human
 562 nutrition, food and nutrition, dietetics, or food management;
 563 and

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

567 Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 468.513, Florida
 568 Statutes, is amended to read:

569 468.513 Dietitian/nutritionist; licensure by endorsement.—

570 (1) The department shall issue a license to practice
 571 dietetics and nutrition by endorsement to any applicant who
 572 submits to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135
 573 and the board certifies as qualified, upon receipt of a
 574 completed application and the fee specified in s. 468.508.

575 Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 468.803, Florida

576 Statutes, is amended to read:

577 468.803 License, registration, and examination
578 requirements.—

579 (2) An applicant for registration, examination, or
580 licensure must apply to the department on a form prescribed by
581 the board for consideration of board approval. Each initial
582 applicant shall submit fingerprints to the department in
583 accordance with s. 456.0135 and any other procedures specified
584 by the department for state and national criminal history checks
585 of the applicant. The board shall screen the results to
586 determine if an applicant meets licensure requirements. The
587 board shall consider for examination, registration, or licensure
588 each applicant whom the board verifies meets all of the
589 following criteria:

590 (a) Has submitted the completed application and completed
591 the fingerprinting requirements and has paid the applicable
592 application fee, not to exceed \$500. The application fee is
593 nonrefundable.~~†~~

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

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

596 (d) Has completed the appropriate educational preparation.

597 Section 23. Subsection (1) of section 478.45, Florida
598 Statutes, is amended to read:

599 478.45 Requirements for licensure.—

600 (1) An applicant applying for licensure as an

601 electrologist shall apply to the department on forms furnished
 602 by the department. The department shall license each applicant
 603 who the board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

612 (e)~~(e)~~ Possesses a high school diploma or a high school
 613 equivalency diploma.

614 (f)~~(d)~~ Has not committed an act in any jurisdiction which
 615 would constitute grounds for disciplining an electrologist in
 616 this state.

617 (g)~~(e)~~ Has successfully completed the academic
 618 requirements of an electrolysis training program, not to exceed
 619 120 hours, and the practical application thereof as approved by
 620 the board.

621 Section 24. Section 483.815, Florida Statutes, is amended
 622 to read:

623 483.815 Application for clinical laboratory personnel
 624 license.—An application for a clinical laboratory personnel
 625 license shall be made under oath on forms provided by the

626 department and shall be accompanied by payment of fees as
 627 provided by this part. Applicants for licensure must also submit
 628 to background screening in accordance with s. 456.0135. A
 629 license may be issued authorizing the performance of procedures
 630 of one or more categories.

631 Section 25. Present paragraphs (b) through (k) of
 632 subsection (4) of section 483.901, Florida Statutes, are
 633 redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (l), respectively, a new
 634 paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of
 635 that subsection is amended, to read:

636 483.901 Medical physicists; definitions; licensure.—

637 (4) LICENSE REQUIRED.—An individual may not engage in the
 638 practice of medical physics, including the specialties of
 639 diagnostic radiological physics, therapeutic radiological
 640 physics, medical nuclear radiological physics, or medical health
 641 physics, without a license issued by the department for the
 642 appropriate specialty.

643 (a) The department shall adopt rules to administer this
 644 section which specify license application and renewal fees,
 645 continuing education requirements, background screening
 646 requirements, and standards for practicing medical physics. The
 647 department shall require a minimum of 24 hours per biennium of
 648 continuing education offered by an organization approved by the
 649 department. The department may adopt rules to specify continuing
 650 education requirements for persons who hold a license in more

651 than one specialty.

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

654 Section 26. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 483.914,
655 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

656 483.914 Licensure requirements.—

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

660 (a) Has completed an application.

661 (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
662 with s. 456.0135.

663 (c) Is of good moral character.

664 (d)~~(e)~~ Provides satisfactory documentation of having
665 earned:

666 1. A master's degree from a genetic counseling training
667 program or its equivalent as determined by the Accreditation
668 Council of Genetic Counseling or its successor or an equivalent
669 entity; or

670 2. A doctoral degree from a medical genetics training
671 program accredited by the American Board of Medical Genetics and
672 Genomics or the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists.

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

674 1. A genetic counselor by the American Board of Genetic
675 Counseling, Inc., the American Board of Medical Genetics and

676 Genomics, or the Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors; or
 677 2. A medical or clinical geneticist by the American Board
 678 of Medical Genetics and Genomics or the Canadian College of
 679 Medical Geneticists.

680 (3) The department may issue a temporary license for up to
 681 2 years to an applicant who meets all requirements for licensure
 682 except for the certification examination requirement imposed
 683 under paragraph (2)(e) ~~(2)(d)~~ and is eligible to sit for that
 684 certification examination.

685 Section 27. Subsection (1) of section 484.007, Florida
 686 Statutes, is amended to read:

687 484.007 Licensure of opticians; permitting of optical
 688 establishments.—

689 (1) Any person desiring to practice opticianry shall apply
 690 to the department, upon forms prescribed by it, to take a
 691 licensure examination. The department shall examine each
 692 applicant who the board certifies meets all of the following
 693 criteria:

694 (a) Has completed the application form and remitted a
 695 nonrefundable application fee set by the board, in the amount of
 696 \$100 or less, and an examination fee set by the board, in the
 697 amount of \$325 plus the actual per applicant cost to the
 698 department for purchase of portions of the examination from the
 699 American Board of Opticianry or a similar national organization,
 700 or less, and refundable if the board finds the applicant

701 ineligible to take the examination.‡

702 (b) Submits to background screening in accordance with s.
 703 456.0135.

704 (c) Is not less than 18 years of age.‡

705 (d)(e) Is a graduate of an accredited high school or
 706 possesses a certificate of equivalency of a high school
 707 education.‡~~and~~

708 (e)1.~~(d)1.~~ Has received an associate degree, or its
 709 equivalent, in opticianry from an educational institution the
 710 curriculum of which is accredited by an accrediting agency
 711 recognized and approved by the United States Department of
 712 Education or the Council on Postsecondary Education or approved
 713 by the board;

714 2. Is an individual licensed to practice the profession of
 715 opticianry pursuant to a regulatory licensing law of another
 716 state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States, who has
 717 actively practiced in such other state, territory, or
 718 jurisdiction for more than 3 years immediately preceding
 719 application, and who meets the examination qualifications as
 720 provided in this subsection;

721 3. Is an individual who has actively practiced in another
 722 state, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States for more
 723 than 5 years immediately preceding application and who provides
 724 tax or business records, affidavits, or other satisfactory
 725 documentation of such practice and who meets the examination

726 | qualifications as provided in this subsection; or
 727 | 4. Has registered as an apprentice with the department and
 728 | paid a registration fee not to exceed \$60, as set by rule of the
 729 | board. The apprentice shall complete 6,240 hours of training
 730 | under the supervision of an optician licensed in this state for
 731 | at least 1 year or of a physician or optometrist licensed under
 732 | the laws of this state. These requirements must be met within 5
 733 | years after the date of registration. However, any time spent in
 734 | a recognized school may be considered as part of the
 735 | apprenticeship program provided herein. The board may establish
 736 | administrative processing fees sufficient to cover the cost of
 737 | administering apprentice rules adopted ~~as promulgated~~ by the
 738 | board.

739 | Section 28. Subsection (2) of section 484.045, Florida
 740 | Statutes, is amended to read:

741 | 484.045 Licensure by examination.—

742 | (2) The department shall license each applicant who the
 743 | board certifies meets all of the following criteria:

744 | (a) Has completed the application form and remitted the
 745 | required fees.

746 | (b) Has submitted to background screening in accordance
 747 | with s. 456.0135.

748 | (c) Is of good moral character.

749 | (d)-(e) Is 18 years of age or older.

750 | (e)-(d) Is a graduate of an accredited high school or its

751 equivalent.

752 (f)1.~~(e)1.~~ Has met the requirements of the training
753 program; or

754 2.a. Has a valid, current license as a hearing aid
755 specialist or its equivalent from another state and has been
756 actively practicing in such capacity for at least 12 months; or

757 b. Is currently certified by the National Board for
758 Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences and has been
759 actively practicing for at least 12 months.

760 (g)~~(f)~~ Has passed an examination, as prescribed by board
761 rule.

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

765 Section 29. Section 486.031, Florida Statutes, is amended
766 to read:

767 486.031 Physical therapist; licensing requirements.—To be
768 eligible for licensing as a physical therapist, an applicant
769 must meet all of the following criteria:

770 (1) Be at least 18 years old.;

771 (2) Be of good moral character.

772 (3) Have submitted to background screening in accordance
773 with s. 456.0135.~~;~~ ~~and~~

774 (4) (a)~~(3) (a)~~ Have ~~been~~ graduated from a school of physical
775 therapy which has been approved for the educational preparation

776 of physical therapists by the appropriate accrediting agency
 777 recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or
 778 its successor entity, ~~Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary~~
 779 ~~Accreditation~~ or the United States Department of Education at
 780 the time of her or his graduation and have passed, to the
 781 satisfaction of the board, the American Registry Examination
 782 prior to 1971 or a national examination approved by the board to
 783 determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 784 therapist as hereinafter provided;

785 (b) Have received a diploma from a program in physical
 786 therapy in a foreign country and have educational credentials
 787 deemed equivalent to those required for the educational
 788 preparation of physical therapists in this country, as
 789 recognized by the appropriate agency as identified by the board,
 790 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination
 791 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
 792 therapist as hereinafter provided; or

793 (c) Be entitled to licensure without examination as
 794 provided in s. 486.081.

795 Section 30. Section 486.102, Florida Statutes, is amended
 796 to read:

797 486.102 Physical therapist assistant; licensing
 798 requirements.—To be eligible for licensing by the board as a
 799 physical therapist assistant, an applicant must meet all of the
 800 following criteria:

- 801 (1) Be at least 18 years old.†
- 802 (2) Be of good moral character.
- 803 (3) Have submitted to background screening in accordance
- 804 with s. 456.0135.† and
- 805 (4) (a) (3) (a) Have ~~been~~ graduated from a school giving a
- 806 course of not less than 2 years for physical therapist
- 807 assistants, which has been approved for the educational
- 808 preparation of physical therapist assistants by the appropriate
- 809 accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher
- 810 Education Accreditation, or its successor entity, Commission on
- 811 Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States
- 812 Department of Education,† at the time of her or his graduation
- 813 and have passed to the satisfaction of the board an examination
- 814 to determine her or his fitness for practice as a physical
- 815 therapist assistant as hereinafter provided;
- 816 (b) Have ~~been~~ graduated from a school giving a course for
- 817 physical therapist assistants in a foreign country and have
- 818 educational credentials deemed equivalent to those required for
- 819 the educational preparation of physical therapist assistants in
- 820 this country, as recognized by the appropriate agency as
- 821 identified by the board, and passed to the satisfaction of the
- 822 board an examination to determine her or his fitness for
- 823 practice as a physical therapist assistant as hereinafter
- 824 provided;
- 825 (c) Be entitled to licensure without examination as

826 provided in s. 486.107; or

827 (d) Have been enrolled between July 1, 2014, and July 1,
828 2016, in a physical therapist assistant school in this state
829 which was accredited at the time of enrollment; and

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

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

835 Section 31. Present paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of
836 subsection (1) of section 490.005, Florida Statutes, are
837 redesignated as paragraphs (c), (d), and (e), respectively, a
838 new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and subsection
839 (2) is amended, to read:

840 490.005 Licensure by examination.—

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

845 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
846 s. 456.0135.

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

851 (a) Satisfactorily completed the application form and
852 submitted a nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$250 and
853 an examination fee sufficient to cover the per applicant cost to
854 the department for development, purchase, and administration of
855 the examination, but not to exceed \$250 as set by department
856 rule.

857 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
858 s. 456.0135.

859 (c) Submitted satisfactory proof to the department that
860 the applicant:

861 1. Has received a doctorate, specialist, or equivalent
862 degree from a program primarily psychological in nature and has
863 completed 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of graduate
864 study, in areas related to school psychology as defined by rule
865 of the department, from a college or university which at the
866 time the applicant was enrolled and graduated was accredited by
867 an accrediting agency recognized and approved by the Council for
868 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or
869 from an institution that is a member in good standing with the
870 Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

871 2. Has had a minimum of 3 years of experience in school
872 psychology, 2 years of which must be supervised by an individual
873 who is a licensed school psychologist or who has otherwise
874 qualified as a school psychologist supervisor, by education and
875 experience, as set forth by rule of the department. A doctoral

876 internship may be applied toward the supervision requirement.

877 3. Has passed an examination provided by the department.

878 Section 32. Present paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection
 879 (1) of section 490.0051, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 880 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, and a new paragraph (b) is
 881 added to that subsection, to read:

882 490.0051 Provisional licensure; requirements.—

883 (1) The department shall issue a provisional psychology
 884 license to each applicant whom the board certifies has met all
 885 of the following criteria:

886 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 887 s. 456.0135.

888 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 490.006, Florida
 889 Statutes, is amended to read:

890 490.006 Licensure by endorsement.—

891 (1) The department shall license a person as a
 892 psychologist or school psychologist who, upon applying to the
 893 department, submitting to background screening in accordance
 894 with s. 456.0135, and remitting the appropriate fee,
 895 demonstrates to the department or, in the case of psychologists,
 896 to the board that the applicant:

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

899 (b) Possesses a doctoral degree in psychology and has at
 900 least 10 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any

901 jurisdiction or territory of the United States within the 25
 902 years preceding the date of application.

903 Section 34. Subsections (1), (2), (4), and (6) of section
 904 491.0045, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

905 491.0045 Intern registration; requirements.—

906 (1) An individual who has not satisfied the postgraduate
 907 or post-master's level experience requirements, as specified in
 908 s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(c), (3)(c), or~~
 909 ~~(4)(c)~~, must register as an intern in the profession for which
 910 he or she is seeking licensure before commencing the post-
 911 master's experience requirement or an individual who intends to
 912 satisfy part of the required graduate-level practicum,
 913 internship, or field experience, outside the academic arena for
 914 any profession, and must register as an intern in the profession
 915 for which he or she is seeking licensure before commencing the
 916 practicum, internship, or field experience.

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

921 (a) Completed the application form and remitted a
 922 nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 923 board rule.†

924 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 925 s. 456.0135.

926 (c)1. Completed the education requirements as specified in
 927 s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), or~~
 928 ~~(4)(e)~~ for the profession for which he or she is applying for
 929 licensure, if needed; and

930 2. Submitted an acceptable supervision plan, as determined
 931 by the board, for meeting the practicum, internship, or field
 932 work required for licensure that was not satisfied in his or her
 933 graduate program.

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

935 (4) An individual who fails to comply with this section
 936 may not be granted a license under this chapter, and any time
 937 spent by the individual completing the experience requirement as
 938 specified in s. 491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), or (4)(d) ~~s.~~
 939 ~~491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), or (4)(e)~~ before registering as an intern
 940 does not count toward completion of the requirement.

941 (6) Any registration issued after March 31, 2017, expires
 942 60 months after the date it is issued. The board may make a one-
 943 time exception to the requirements of this subsection in
 944 emergency or hardship cases, as defined by board rule, if the
 945 candidate has passed the theory and practice examination
 946 described in s. 491.005(1)(e), (3)(e), and (4)(e) ~~s.~~
 947 ~~491.005(1)(d), (3)(d), and (4)(d)~~.

948 Section 35. Subsection (2) of section 491.0046, Florida
 949 Statutes, is amended to read:

950 491.0046 Provisional license; requirements.—

951 (2) The department shall issue a provisional clinical
 952 social worker license, provisional marriage and family therapist
 953 license, or provisional mental health counselor license to each
 954 applicant who the board certifies has met all of the following
 955 criteria:

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

959 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 960 s. 456.0135.

961 (c) Earned a graduate degree in social work, a graduate
 962 degree with a major emphasis in marriage and family therapy or a
 963 closely related field, or a graduate degree in a major related
 964 to the practice of mental health counseling. ~~;~~ ~~and~~

965 (d) ~~(e)~~ Met the following minimum coursework requirements:

966 1. For clinical social work, a minimum of 15 semester
 967 hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework required by s.
 968 491.005(1)(c)2.b. ~~s. 491.005(1)(b)2.b.~~

969 2. For marriage and family therapy, 10 of the courses
 970 required by s. 491.005(3)(c) ~~s. 491.005(3)(b)~~, as determined by
 971 the board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of
 972 the course credits must have been completed in the area of
 973 marriage and family systems, theories, or techniques.

974 3. For mental health counseling, a minimum of seven of the
 975 courses required under s. 491.005(4)(c)1.a., b., or c. ~~s.~~

976 | ~~491.005(4)(b)1.a.-c.~~

977 | Section 36. Subsections (1) through (4) of section
 978 | 491.005, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

979 | 491.005 Licensure by examination.—

980 | (1) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—Upon verification of
 981 | documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 982 | board rule, the department shall issue a license as a clinical
 983 | social worker to an applicant whom the board certifies has met
 984 | all of the following criteria:

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

986 | (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 987 | s. 456.0135.

988 | (c)1. Received a doctoral degree in social work from a
 989 | graduate school of social work which at the time the applicant
 990 | graduated was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by
 991 | the United States Department of Education or received a master's
 992 | degree in social work from a graduate school of social work
 993 | which at the time the applicant graduated:

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

995 | b. Was accredited by the Canadian Association for Social
 996 | Work Education; or

997 | c. Has been determined to have been a program equivalent
 998 | to programs approved by the Council on Social Work Education by
 999 | the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on
 1000 | Social Work Education. An applicant who graduated from a program

1001 at a university or college outside of the United States or
 1002 Canada must present documentation of the equivalency
 1003 determination from the council in order to qualify.

1004 2. The applicant's graduate program emphasized direct
 1005 clinical patient or client health care services, including, but
 1006 not limited to, coursework in clinical social work, psychiatric
 1007 social work, medical social work, social casework,
 1008 psychotherapy, or group therapy. The applicant's graduate
 1009 program must have included all of the following coursework:

1010 a. A supervised field placement which was part of the
 1011 applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during
 1012 which the applicant provided clinical services directly to
 1013 clients.

1014 b. Completion of 24 semester hours or 32 quarter hours in
 1015 theory of human behavior and practice methods as courses in
 1016 clinically oriented services, including a minimum of one course
 1017 in psychopathology, and no more than one course in research,
 1018 taken in a school of social work accredited or approved pursuant
 1019 to subparagraph 1.

1020 3. If the course title which appears on the applicant's
 1021 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the
 1022 coursework, the applicant provided additional documentation,
 1023 including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description
 1024 published for the course.

1025 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical social work

1026 | experience, which took place subsequent to completion of a
1027 | graduate degree in social work at an institution meeting the
1028 | accreditation requirements of this section, under the
1029 | supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or the
1030 | equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as determined by the
1031 | board. An individual who intends to practice in Florida to
1032 | satisfy clinical experience requirements must register pursuant
1033 | to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If the applicant's
1034 | graduate program was not a program which emphasized direct
1035 | clinical patient or client health care services as described in
1036 | subparagraph (c)2. ~~(b)2.~~, the supervised experience requirement
1037 | must take place after the applicant has completed a minimum of
1038 | 15 semester hours or 22 quarter hours of the coursework
1039 | required. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
1040 | clinical social work experience requirement. A licensed mental
1041 | health professional must be on the premises when clinical
1042 | services are provided by a registered intern in a private
1043 | practice setting.

1044 | ~~(e)~~~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
1045 | by board rule.

1046 | (f)~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
1047 | knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
1048 | clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
1049 | health counseling.

1050 | (2) CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK.—

1051 (a) Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ paragraph (1)(c)
1052 ~~(1)(b)~~, coursework which was taken at a baccalaureate level
1053 shall not be considered toward completion of education
1054 requirements for licensure unless an official of the graduate
1055 program certifies in writing on the graduate school's stationery
1056 that a specific course, which students enrolled in the same
1057 graduate program were ordinarily required to complete at the
1058 graduate level, was waived or exempted based on completion of a
1059 similar course at the baccalaureate level. If this condition is
1060 met, the board shall apply the baccalaureate course named toward
1061 the education requirements.

1062 (b) An applicant from a master's or doctoral program in
1063 social work which did not emphasize direct patient or client
1064 services may complete the clinical curriculum content
1065 requirement by returning to a graduate program accredited by the
1066 Council on Social Work Education or the Canadian Association of
1067 Schools of Social Work, or to a clinical social work graduate
1068 program with comparable standards, in order to complete the
1069 education requirements for examination. However, a maximum of 6
1070 semester or 9 quarter hours of the clinical curriculum content
1071 requirement may be completed by credit awarded for independent
1072 study coursework as defined by board rule.

1073 (3) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY.—Upon verification of
1074 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
1075 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a marriage

1076 and family therapist to an applicant whom the board certifies
 1077 has met all of the following criteria:

1078 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.
 1079 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1080 s. 456.0135.

1081 (c)1. Attained one of the following:

1082 a. A minimum of a master's degree in marriage and family
 1083 therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on
 1084 Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

1085 b. A minimum of a master's degree with a major emphasis in
 1086 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field from a
 1087 university program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of
 1088 Counseling and Related Educational Programs and graduate courses
 1089 approved by the board.

1090 c. A minimum of a master's degree with an emphasis in
 1091 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field, with a
 1092 degree conferred before September 1, 2027, from an
 1093 institutionally accredited college or university and graduate
 1094 courses approved by the board.

1095 2. If the course title that appears on the applicant's
 1096 transcript does not clearly identify the content of the
 1097 coursework, the applicant provided additional documentation,
 1098 including, but not limited to, a syllabus or catalog description
 1099 published for the course. The required master's degree must have
 1100 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the

1101 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an
1102 institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for
1103 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or
1104 was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an
1105 institution of higher education located outside the United
1106 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled
1107 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard
1108 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of
1109 training of those institutions in the United States which are
1110 accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by
1111 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor
1112 organization. Such foreign education and training must have been
1113 received in an institution or program of higher education
1114 officially recognized by the government of the country in which
1115 it is located as an institution or program to train students to
1116 practice as professional marriage and family therapists or
1117 psychotherapists. The applicant has the burden of establishing
1118 that the requirements of this provision have been met, and the
1119 board shall require documentation, such as an evaluation by a
1120 foreign equivalency determination service, as evidence that the
1121 applicant's graduate degree program and education were
1122 equivalent to an accredited program in this country. An
1123 applicant with a master's degree from a program that did not
1124 emphasize marriage and family therapy may complete the
1125 coursework requirement in a training institution fully

1126 accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and
1127 Family Therapy Education recognized by the United States
1128 Department of Education.

1129 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience
1130 during which 50 percent of the applicant's clients were
1131 receiving marriage and family therapy services, which must be at
1132 the post-master's level under the supervision of a licensed
1133 marriage and family therapist with at least 5 years of
1134 experience, or the equivalent, who is a qualified supervisor as
1135 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
1136 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
1137 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If
1138 a graduate has a master's degree with a major emphasis in
1139 marriage and family therapy or a closely related field which did
1140 not include all of the coursework required by paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~,
1141 credit for the post-master's level clinical experience may not
1142 commence until the applicant has completed a minimum of 10 of
1143 the courses required by paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~, as determined by the
1144 board, and at least 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours of the
1145 course credits must have been completed in the area of marriage
1146 and family systems, theories, or techniques. Within the 2 years
1147 of required experience, the applicant shall provide direct
1148 individual, group, or family therapy and counseling to cases
1149 including those involving unmarried dyads, married couples,
1150 separating and divorcing couples, and family groups that include

1151 children. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
 1152 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
 1153 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
 1154 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1155 (e)~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
 1156 by board rule.

1157 (f)~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
 1158 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
 1159 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
 1160 health counseling.

1161
 1162 For the purposes of dual licensure, the department shall license
 1163 as a marriage and family therapist any person who meets the
 1164 requirements of s. 491.0057. Fees for dual licensure may not
 1165 exceed those stated in this subsection.

1166 (4) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—Upon verification of
 1167 documentation and payment of a fee not to exceed \$200, as set by
 1168 board rule, the department shall issue a license as a mental
 1169 health counselor to an applicant whom the board certifies has
 1170 met all of the following criteria:

1171 (a) Submitted an application and paid the appropriate fee.

1172 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1173 s. 456.0135.

1174 (c)1. Attained a minimum of an earned master's degree from
 1175 a mental health counseling program accredited by the Council for

1176 the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
1177 which consists of at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours
1178 of clinical and didactic instruction, including a course in
1179 human sexuality and a course in substance abuse. If the master's
1180 degree is earned from a program related to the practice of
1181 mental health counseling which is not accredited by the Council
1182 for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational
1183 Programs, then the coursework and practicum, internship, or
1184 fieldwork must consist of at least 60 semester hours or 80
1185 quarter hours and meet all of the following requirements:

1186 a. Thirty-three semester hours or 44 quarter hours of
1187 graduate coursework, which must include a minimum of 3 semester
1188 hours or 4 quarter hours of graduate-level coursework in each of
1189 the following 11 content areas: counseling theories and
1190 practice; human growth and development; diagnosis and treatment
1191 of psychopathology; human sexuality; group theories and
1192 practice; individual evaluation and assessment; career and
1193 lifestyle assessment; research and program evaluation; social
1194 and cultural foundations; substance abuse; and legal, ethical,
1195 and professional standards issues in the practice of mental
1196 health counseling. Courses in research, thesis or dissertation
1197 work, practicums, internships, or fieldwork may not be applied
1198 toward this requirement.

1199 b. A minimum of 3 semester hours or 4 quarter hours of
1200 graduate-level coursework addressing diagnostic processes,

1201 including differential diagnosis and the use of the current
1202 diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the American
1203 Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of
1204 Mental Disorders. The graduate program must have emphasized the
1205 common core curricular experience.

1206 c. The equivalent, as determined by the board, of at least
1207 700 hours of university-sponsored supervised clinical practicum,
1208 internship, or field experience that includes at least 280 hours
1209 of direct client services, as required in the accrediting
1210 standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and
1211 Related Educational Programs for mental health counseling
1212 programs. This experience may not be used to satisfy the post-
1213 master's clinical experience requirement.

1214 2. Provided additional documentation if a course title
1215 that appears on the applicant's transcript does not clearly
1216 identify the content of the coursework. The documentation must
1217 include, but is not limited to, a syllabus or catalog
1218 description published for the course.

1219
1220 Education and training in mental health counseling must have
1221 been received in an institution of higher education that, at the
1222 time the applicant graduated, was fully accredited by an
1223 institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for
1224 Higher Education Accreditation or its successor organization or
1225 was a member in good standing with Universities Canada, or an

1226 institution of higher education located outside the United
1227 States and Canada which, at the time the applicant was enrolled
1228 and at the time the applicant graduated, maintained a standard
1229 of training substantially equivalent to the standards of
1230 training of those institutions in the United States which are
1231 accredited by an institutional accrediting body recognized by
1232 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or its successor
1233 organization. Such foreign education and training must have been
1234 received in an institution or program of higher education
1235 officially recognized by the government of the country in which
1236 it is located as an institution or program to train students to
1237 practice as mental health counselors. The applicant has the
1238 burden of establishing that the requirements of this provision
1239 have been met, and the board shall require documentation, such
1240 as an evaluation by a foreign equivalency determination service,
1241 as evidence that the applicant's graduate degree program and
1242 education were equivalent to an accredited program in this
1243 country. Beginning July 1, 2025, an applicant must have a
1244 master's degree from a program that is accredited by the Council
1245 for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational
1246 Programs, the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation
1247 Council, or an equivalent accrediting body which consists of at
1248 least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours to apply for
1249 licensure under this paragraph.

1250 (d)~~(e)~~ Completed at least 2 years of clinical experience

1251 in mental health counseling, which must be at the post-master's
1252 level under the supervision of a licensed mental health
1253 counselor or the equivalent who is a qualified supervisor as
1254 determined by the board. An individual who intends to practice
1255 in Florida to satisfy the clinical experience requirements must
1256 register pursuant to s. 491.0045 before commencing practice. If
1257 a graduate has a master's degree with a major related to the
1258 practice of mental health counseling which did not include all
1259 the coursework required under sub-subparagraphs (c)1.a and b.
1260 ~~(b)1.a. and b.~~, credit for the post-master's level clinical
1261 experience may not commence until the applicant has completed a
1262 minimum of seven of the courses required under sub-subparagraphs
1263 (c)1.a and b. ~~(b)1.a. and b.~~, as determined by the board, one of
1264 which must be a course in psychopathology or abnormal
1265 psychology. A doctoral internship may be applied toward the
1266 clinical experience requirement. A licensed mental health
1267 professional must be on the premises when clinical services are
1268 provided by a registered intern in a private practice setting.

1269 (e)~~(d)~~ Passed a theory and practice examination designated
1270 by board rule.

1271 (f)~~(e)~~ Demonstrated, in a manner designated by board rule,
1272 knowledge of the laws and rules governing the practice of
1273 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, and mental
1274 health counseling.

1275 Section 37. Subsection (1) of section 491.006, Florida

1276 Statutes, is amended to read:
 1277 491.006 Licensure or certification by endorsement.—
 1278 (1) The department shall license or grant a certificate to
 1279 a person in a profession regulated by this chapter who, upon
 1280 applying to the department and remitting the appropriate fee,
 1281 demonstrates to the board that he or she:
 1282 (a) Has demonstrated, in a manner designated by rule of
 1283 the board, knowledge of the laws and rules governing the
 1284 practice of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy,
 1285 and mental health counseling.
 1286 (b) Submitted to background screening in accordance with
 1287 s. 456.0135.
 1288 (c)1. Holds an active valid license to practice and has
 1289 actively practiced the licensed profession in another state for
 1290 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding licensure;
 1291 2. Has passed a substantially equivalent licensing
 1292 examination in another state or has passed the licensure
 1293 examination in this state in the profession for which the
 1294 applicant seeks licensure; and
 1295 3. Holds a license in good standing, is not under
 1296 investigation for an act that would constitute a violation of
 1297 this chapter, and has not been found to have committed any act
 1298 that would constitute a violation of this chapter.
 1299
 1300 The fees paid by any applicant for certification as a master

1301 social worker under this section are nonrefundable.

1302 Section 38. Section 486.025, Florida Statutes, is amended
1303 to read:

1304 486.025 Powers and duties of the Board of Physical Therapy
1305 Practice.—The board may administer oaths, summon witnesses, take
1306 testimony in all matters relating to its duties under this
1307 chapter, establish or modify minimum standards of practice of
1308 physical therapy as defined in s. 486.021, including, but not
1309 limited to, standards of practice for the performance of dry
1310 needling by physical therapists, and adopt rules pursuant to ss.
1311 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this chapter. The board may
1312 also review the standing and reputability of any school or
1313 college offering courses in physical therapy and whether the
1314 courses of such school or college in physical therapy meet the
1315 standards established by the appropriate accrediting agency
1316 referred to in s. 486.031(4)(a) ~~s. 486.031(3)(a)~~. In determining
1317 the standing and reputability of any such school and whether the
1318 school and courses meet such standards, the board may
1319 investigate and personally inspect the school and courses.

1320 Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
1321 486.0715, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1322 486.0715 Physical therapist; issuance of temporary
1323 permit.—

1324 (1) The board shall issue a temporary physical therapist
1325 permit to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

1326 (b) Is a graduate of an approved United States physical
 1327 therapy educational program and meets all the eligibility
 1328 requirements for licensure under chapter ~~ch.~~ 456, s. 486.031(1) -
 1329 (4)(a) ~~s. 486.031(1)-(3)(a)~~, and related rules, except passage
 1330 of a national examination approved by the board is not required.

1331 Section 40. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1332 486.1065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1333 486.1065 Physical therapist assistant; issuance of
 1334 temporary permit.-

1335 (1) The board shall issue a temporary physical therapist
 1336 assistant permit to an applicant who meets the following
 1337 requirements:

1338 (b) Is a graduate of an approved United States physical
 1339 therapy assistant educational program and meets all the
 1340 eligibility requirements for licensure under chapter ~~ch.~~ 456, s.
 1341 486.102(1)-(4)(a) ~~s. 486.102(1)-(3)(a)~~, and related rules,
 1342 except passage of a national examination approved by the board
 1343 is not required.

1344 Section 41. Subsections (15), (16), and (17) of section
 1345 491.003, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1346 491.003 Definitions.-As used in this chapter:

1347 (15) "Registered clinical social worker intern" means a
 1348 person registered under this chapter who is completing the
 1349 postgraduate clinical social work experience requirement
 1350 specified in s. 491.005(1)(d) ~~s. 491.005(1)(e)~~.

1351 (16) "Registered marriage and family therapist intern"
 1352 means a person registered under this chapter who is completing
 1353 the post-master's clinical experience requirement specified in
 1354 s. 491.005(3)(d) ~~s. 491.005(3)(c)~~.

1355 (17) "Registered mental health counselor intern" means a
 1356 person registered under this chapter who is completing the post-
 1357 master's clinical experience requirement specified in s.
 1358 491.005(4)(d) ~~s. 491.005(4)(c)~~.

1359 Section 42. For the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, nine full-time
 1360 equivalent positions, with associated salary rate of 714,651 are
 1361 authorized and the sums of \$1,164,134 in recurring and \$59,931
 1362 in nonrecurring funds from the Medical Quality Assurance Trust
 1363 Fund are appropriated to the Department of Health for the
 1364 purpose of implementing this act.

1365 Section 43. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.