

CHAPTER 2020-50

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 218

An act relating to licensure requirements for osteopathic physicians; amending s. 459.0055, F.S.; revising licensure requirements for persons seeking licensure or certification as an osteopathic physician; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 459.0055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

459.0055 General licensure requirements.—

(1) Except as otherwise provided herein, any person desiring to be licensed or certified as an osteopathic physician pursuant to this chapter shall:

(a) Complete an application form and submit the appropriate fee to the department;

(b) Be at least 21 years of age;

(c) Be of good moral character;

(d) Have completed at least 3 years of preprofessional postsecondary education;

(e) Have not previously committed any act that would constitute a violation of this chapter, unless the board determines that such act does not adversely affect the applicant's present ability and fitness to practice osteopathic medicine;

(f) Not be under investigation in any jurisdiction for an act that would constitute a violation of this chapter. If, upon completion of such investigation, it is determined that the applicant has committed an act that would constitute a violation of this chapter, the applicant is ineligible for licensure unless the board determines that such act does not adversely affect the applicant's present ability and fitness to practice osteopathic medicine;

(g) Have not had an application for a license to practice osteopathic medicine denied or a license to practice osteopathic medicine revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction unless the board determines that the grounds on which such action was taken do not adversely affect the applicant's present ability and fitness to practice osteopathic medicine. A licensing authority's acceptance of a physician's relinquishment of license, stipulation, consent order, or other settlement, offered in response to or in anticipation of the filing of

administrative charges against the osteopathic physician, shall be considered action against the osteopathic physician's license;

(h) Not have received less than a satisfactory evaluation from an internship, residency, or fellowship training program, unless the board determines that such act does not adversely affect the applicant's present ability and fitness to practice osteopathic medicine. Such evaluation shall be provided by the director of medical education from the medical training facility;

(i) Have met the criteria set forth in s. 459.0075, s. 459.0077, or s. 459.021, whichever is applicable;

(j) Submit to the department a set of fingerprints on a form and under procedures specified by the department, along with a payment in an amount equal to the costs incurred by the Department of Health for the criminal background check of the applicant;

(k) Demonstrate that he or she is a graduate of a medical college recognized and approved by the American Osteopathic Association;

(l) Demonstrate that she or he has successfully completed an internship or a residency ~~a resident internship~~ of not less than 12 months in a program accredited hospital ~~approved for this purpose by the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association or the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education~~ any other internship program approved by the board upon a showing of good cause by the applicant. This requirement may be waived for an applicant who matriculated in a college of osteopathic medicine during or before 1948; and

(m) Demonstrate that she or he has obtained a passing score, as established by rule of the board, on all parts of the examination conducted by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners or other examination approved by the board no more than 5 years before making application in this state or, if holding a valid active license in another state, that the initial licensure in the other state occurred no more than 5 years after the applicant obtained a passing score on the examination conducted by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners or other substantially similar examination approved by the board.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 20, 2020.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 20, 2020.