

CHAPTER 2023-274

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1133

An act relating to physician assistant licensure; amending ss. 458.347 and 459.022 F.S.; revising requirements for an applicant for licensure as a physician assistant; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 458.347, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

458.347 Physician assistants.—

(6) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.—

(a) Any person desiring to be licensed as a physician assistant must apply to the department. The department shall issue a license to any person certified by the council as having met all of the following requirements:

1. Is at least 18 years of age.
2. Has completed ~~graduated from~~ an approved program.

a. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ after December 31, 2020, has received a master's degree ~~in accordance with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or, before 2001, its equivalent or predecessor organization.~~

b. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ on or before December 31, 2020, has received a bachelor's or master's degree from an approved program.

c. For an applicant who graduated before July 1, 1994, has graduated from an approved program of instruction in primary health care or surgery.

d. For an applicant who graduated before July 1, 1983, has received a certification as a physician assistant from the boards.

e. The board may also grant a license to an applicant who does not meet the educational requirement specified in this subparagraph but who has passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants ~~before 1986.~~

3. Has obtained a passing score as established by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its equivalent or successor organization and has been nationally certified. If an applicant does not hold a current certificate issued by the National Commission on

Certification of Physician Assistants or its equivalent or successor organization and has not actively practiced as a physician assistant within the immediately preceding 4 years, the applicant must retake and successfully complete the entry-level examination of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its equivalent or successor organization to be eligible for licensure.

4. Has completed the application form and remitted an application fee not to exceed \$300 as set by the boards. An application for licensure as a physician assistant must include:

- a. A diploma from an approved program.
- b. Acknowledgment of any prior felony convictions.
- c. Acknowledgment of any previous revocation or denial of licensure or certification in any state.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 459.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

459.022 Physician assistants.—

(6) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE.—

(a) Any person desiring to be licensed as a physician assistant must apply to the department. The department shall issue a license to any person certified by the council as having met all of the following requirements:

1. Is at least 18 years of age.
2. Has completed ~~graduated from~~ an approved program.
 - a. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ after December 31, 2020, has received a master's degree ~~in accordance with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or, before 2001, its equivalent or predecessor organization.~~
 - b. For an applicant who matriculated ~~graduated~~ on or before December 31, 2020, has received a bachelor's or master's degree from an approved program.
 - c. For an applicant who graduated before July 1, 1994, has graduated from an approved program of instruction in primary health care or surgery.
 - d. For an applicant who graduated before July 1, 1983, has received a certification as a physician assistant from the boards.
 - e. The board may also grant a license to an applicant who does not meet the educational requirement specified in this subparagraph but who has passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination

administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants before 1986.

3. Has obtained a passing score as established by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its equivalent or successor organization and has been nationally certified. If an applicant does not hold a current certificate issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its equivalent or successor organization and has not actively practiced as a physician assistant within the immediately preceding 4 years, the applicant must retake and successfully complete the entry-level examination of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its equivalent or successor organization to be eligible for licensure.

4. Has completed the application form and remitted an application fee not to exceed \$300 as set by the boards. An application for licensure as a physician assistant must include:

- a. A diploma from an approved program.
- b. Acknowledgment of any prior felony convictions.
- c. Acknowledgment of any previous revocation or denial of licensure or certification in any state.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 21, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 21, 2023.