2014

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to physician assistants; amending ss.
3	458.347 and 459.022, F.S.; revising circumstances
4	under which a physician assistant is authorized to
5	prescribe or dispense medication; revising application
6	requirements for licensure as a physician assistant
7	and license renewal; providing an effective date.
8	
9	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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11	Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) and paragraphs
12	(a) and (c) of subsection (7) of section 458.347, Florida
13	Statutes, are amended to read:
14	458.347 Physician assistants
15	(4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
16	(e) A supervisory physician may delegate to a fully
17	licensed physician assistant the authority to prescribe or
18	dispense any medication used in the supervisory physician's
19	practice unless such medication is listed on the formulary
20	created pursuant to paragraph (f). A fully licensed physician
21	assistant may only prescribe or dispense such medication under
22	the following circumstances:
23	1. A physician assistant must clearly identify to the
24	patient that he or she is a physician assistant. Furthermore,
25	the physician assistant must inform the patient that the patient
26	has the right to see the physician prior to any prescription
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27 being prescribed or dispensed by the physician assistant.

28 2. The supervisory physician must notify the department of 29 his or her intent to delegate, on a department-approved form, 30 before delegating such authority and notify the department of 31 any change in prescriptive privileges of the physician 32 assistant. Authority to dispense may be delegated only by a 33 supervising physician who is registered as a dispensing 34 practitioner in compliance with s. 465.0276.

35 3. The physician assistant must <u>certify to</u> file with the 36 department a signed affidavit that he or she has completed a 37 minimum of 10 continuing medical education hours in the 38 specialty practice in which the physician assistant has 39 prescriptive privileges with each licensure renewal application.

40 4. The department may issue a prescriber number to the
41 physician assistant granting authority for the prescribing of
42 medicinal drugs authorized within this paragraph upon completion
43 of the foregoing requirements. The physician assistant shall not
44 be required to independently register pursuant to s. 465.0276.

45 5. The prescription must be written in a form that 46 complies with chapter 499 and must contain, in addition to the 47 supervisory physician's name, address, and telephone number, the physician assistant's prescriber number. Unless it is a drug or 48 49 drug sample dispensed by the physician assistant, the 50 prescription must be filled in a pharmacy permitted under 51 chapter 465 and must be dispensed in that pharmacy by a 52 pharmacist licensed under chapter 465. The appearance of the Page 2 of 7

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53 prescriber number creates a presumption that the physician 54 assistant is authorized to prescribe the medicinal drug and the 55 prescription is valid.

56 6. The physician assistant must note the prescription or57 dispensing of medication in the appropriate medical record.

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(7) 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 the following requirements:

63

1. Is at least 18 years of age.

Has satisfactorily passed a proficiency examination by 64 2. an acceptable score established by the National Commission on 65 Certification of Physician Assistants. If an applicant does not 66 67 hold a current certificate issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and has not actively 68 69 practiced as a physician assistant within the immediately 70 preceding 4 years, the applicant must retake and successfully 71 complete the entry-level examination of the National Commission 72 on Certification of Physician Assistants to be eligible for 73 licensure.

74 3. Has completed the application form and remitted an 75 application fee not to exceed \$300 as set by the boards. An 76 application for licensure made by a physician assistant must 77 include:

78

A certificate of completion of a physician assistant
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79	training program specified in subsection (6).
80	b. A sworn statement of any prior felony convictions.
81	c. A sworn statement of any previous revocation or denial
82	of licensure or certification in any state.
83	d. Two letters of recommendation.
84	$\underline{d.e.}$ A copy of course transcripts and a copy of the course
85	description from a physician assistant training program
86	describing course content in pharmacotherapy, if the applicant
87	wishes to apply for prescribing authority. These documents must
88	meet the evidence requirements for prescribing authority.
89	(c) The license must be renewed biennially. Each renewal
90	must include:
91	1. A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards.
92	2. A sworn statement of no felony convictions in the
93	previous 2 years.
94	Section 2. Paragraph (e) of subsection (4) and paragraphs
95	(a) and (b) of subsection (7) of section 459.022, Florida
96	Statutes, are amended to read:
97	459.022 Physician assistants
98	(4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
99	(e) A supervisory physician may delegate to a fully
100	licensed physician assistant the authority to prescribe or
101	dispense any medication used in the supervisory physician's
102	practice unless such medication is listed on the formulary
103	created pursuant to s. 458.347. A fully licensed physician
104	assistant may only prescribe or dispense such medication under
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105 the following circumstances:

A physician assistant must clearly identify to the
 patient that she or he is a physician assistant. Furthermore,
 the physician assistant must inform the patient that the patient
 has the right to see the physician prior to any prescription
 being prescribed or dispensed by the physician assistant.

111 2. The supervisory physician must notify the department of 112 her or his intent to delegate, on a department-approved form, 113 before delegating such authority and notify the department of 114 any change in prescriptive privileges of the physician 115 assistant. Authority to dispense may be delegated only by a 116 supervisory physician who is registered as a dispensing 117 practitioner in compliance with s. 465.0276.

3. The physician assistant must <u>certify to</u> file with the department a signed affidavit that she or he has completed a minimum of 10 continuing medical education hours in the specialty practice in which the physician assistant has prescriptive privileges with each licensure renewal application.

4. The department may issue a prescriber number to the physician assistant granting authority for the prescribing of medicinal drugs authorized within this paragraph upon completion of the foregoing requirements. The physician assistant shall not be required to independently register pursuant to s. 465.0276.

128 5. The prescription must be written in a form that 129 complies with chapter 499 and must contain, in addition to the 130 supervisory physician's name, address, and telephone number, the Page 5 of 7

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131 physician assistant's prescriber number. Unless it is a drug or 132 drug sample dispensed by the physician assistant, the 133 prescription must be filled in a pharmacy permitted under chapter 465, and must be dispensed in that pharmacy by a 134 135 pharmacist licensed under chapter 465. The appearance of the 136 prescriber number creates a presumption that the physician 137 assistant is authorized to prescribe the medicinal drug and the 138 prescription is valid.

139 6. The physician assistant must note the prescription or140 dispensing of medication in the appropriate medical record.

141

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assistant must apply to the department. The department shall
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met the following requirements:

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157 3. Has completed the application form and remitted an 158 application fee not to exceed \$300 as set by the boards. An 159 application for licensure made by a physician assistant must 160 include: 161 A certificate of completion of a physician assistant a. 162 training program specified in subsection (6). 163 A sworn statement of any prior felony convictions. b. 164 с. A sworn statement of any previous revocation or denial of licensure or certification in any state. 165 166 d. Two letters of recommendation. d.e. A copy of course transcripts and a copy of the course 167 description from a physician assistant training program 168 169 describing course content in pharmacotherapy, if the applicant 170 wishes to apply for prescribing authority. These documents must 171 meet the evidence requirements for prescribing authority. 172 The licensure must be renewed biennially. Each renewal (b) 173 must include: 174 1. A renewal fee not to exceed \$500 as set by the boards. 175 2. A sworn statement of no felony convictions in the 176 previous 2 years. 177 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

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