

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to podiatric medicine; amending s.
3 458.347, F.S.; providing and revising definitions;
4 amending s. 458.3485, F.S.; authorizing a medical
5 assistant to perform specified duties under the direct
6 supervision and responsibility of a podiatric
7 physician; amending s. 459.022, F.S.; providing and
8 revising definitions; amending s. 461.007, F.S.;
9 authorizing the Board of Podiatric Medicine to require
10 a specified number of continuing education hours
11 related to the safe and effective prescribing of
12 controlled substances; creating s. 461.0145, F.S.;
13 authorizing a podiatric physician to supervise a
14 specified number of physician assistants; providing
15 requirements for physician assistants, podiatric
16 physicians, and groups of podiatric physicians;
17 creating s. 461.0155, F.S.; providing for governance
18 of podiatric physicians who are supervising medical
19 assistants; amending s. 624.27, F.S.; revising the
20 definition of the term "health care provider" to
21 include podiatric physicians; providing an effective
22 date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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26 Section 1. Paragraphs (b) and (h) of subsection (2) of
 27 section 458.347, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph
 28 (i) is added to that subsection, to read:

29 458.347 Physician assistants.—

30 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

31 (b) "Boards" means the Board of Medicine, ~~and~~ and the Board of
 32 Osteopathic Medicine, and the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

33 (h) "Continuing medical education" means courses
 34 recognized and approved by the boards, the American Academy of
 35 Physician Assistants, the American Medical Association, the
 36 American Osteopathic Association, the American Podiatric Medical
 37 Association, or the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical
 38 Education.

39 (i) "Physician" means a person who holds an active,
 40 unrestricted license as a physician under this chapter, an
 41 osteopathic physician under chapter 459, or a podiatric
 42 physician under chapter 461.

43 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 458.3485, Florida
 44 Statutes, is amended to read:

45 458.3485 Medical assistant.—

46 (1) DEFINITIONS ~~DEFINITION~~.—As used in this section:7

47 (a) "Medical assistant" means a professional multiskilled
 48 person dedicated to assisting in all aspects of medical practice
 49 under the direct supervision and responsibility of a physician.
 50 This practitioner assists with patient care management, executes

51 administrative and clinical procedures, and often performs
52 managerial and supervisory functions. Competence in the field
53 also requires that a medical assistant adhere to ethical and
54 legal standards of professional practice, recognize and respond
55 to emergencies, and demonstrate professional characteristics.

56 (b) "Physician" means a person who holds an active,
57 unrestricted license as a physician under this chapter or a
58 podiatric physician under chapter 461.

59 Section 3. Paragraphs (b) and (h) of subsection (2) of
60 section 459.022, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph
61 (i) is added to that subsection, to read:

62 459.022 Physician assistants.—

63 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

64 (b) "Boards" means the Board of Medicine, ~~and~~ the Board of
65 Osteopathic Medicine, and the Board of Podiatric Medicine.

66 (h) "Continuing medical education" means courses
67 recognized and approved by the boards, the American Academy of
68 Physician Assistants, the American Medical Association, the
69 American Osteopathic Association, the American Podiatric Medical
70 Association, or the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical
71 Education.

72 (i) "Physician" means a person who holds an active,
73 unrestricted license as a physician under chapter 458, an
74 osteopathic physician under this chapter, or a podiatric
75 physician under chapter 461.

76 Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 461.007, Florida
 77 Statutes, is amended to read:

78 461.007 Renewal of license.—

79 (3) The board may by rule prescribe continuing education,
 80 not to exceed 40 hours biennially, as a condition for renewal of
 81 a license, with a minimum of 2 hours of continuing education
 82 related to the safe and effective prescribing of controlled
 83 substances. The criteria for such programs or courses shall be
 84 approved by the board.

85 Section 5. Section 461.0145, Florida Statutes, is created
 86 to read:

87 461.0145 Physician assistants.—

88 (1) A podiatric physician or group of podiatric physicians
 89 may supervise up to four physician assistants licensed under s.
 90 458.347 or s. 459.022. A physician assistant must be qualified
 91 in the medical areas in which the physician assistant is to
 92 perform.

93 (2) A physician assistant practicing under this chapter
 94 shall be governed by s. 458.347 or s. 459.022.

95 (3) A podiatric physician or group of podiatric physicians
 96 supervising a physician assistant shall be individually or
 97 collectively responsible and liable for the performance and the
 98 acts and omissions of the physician assistant.

99 Section 6. Section 461.0155, Florida Statutes, is created
 100 to read:

101 461.0155 Medical assistants.—A podiatric physician who is
 102 supervising a medical assistant shall be governed by s.
 103 458.3485.

104 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 105 624.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

106 624.27 Direct health care agreements; exemption from
 107 code.—

108 (1) As used in this section, the term:

109 (b) "Health care provider" means a health care provider
 110 licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter
 111 461, chapter 464, or chapter 466, or a health care group
 112 practice, who provides health care services to patients.

113 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.