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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Health Policy (Hooper) recommended the following:

1           **Senate Substitute for Amendment (970100) (with title**  
2 **amendment)**

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4           Delete everything after the enacting clause  
5 and insert:

6           Section 1. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (4) of  
7 section 458.347, Florida Statutes, to read:

8           458.347 Physician assistants.—

9           (4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—

10          (i) A supervising physician may authorize a licensed



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11 physician assistant to perform services under the direction of a  
12 podiatric physician licensed under chapter 461 who is a partner,  
13 a shareholder, or an employee of the same group practice, as  
14 defined in s. 456.053(3), as the supervising physician and the  
15 physician assistant. The supervising physician is liable for the  
16 performance and the acts and omissions of such physician  
17 assistant.

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

20 458.3485 Medical assistant.—

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

22 (a) “Medical assistant” means a professional multiskilled  
23 person dedicated to assisting in all aspects of medical practice  
24 under the direct supervision and responsibility of a physician.  
25 This practitioner assists with patient care management, executes  
26 administrative and clinical procedures, and often performs  
27 managerial and supervisory functions. Competence in the field  
28 also requires that a medical assistant adhere to ethical and  
29 legal standards of professional practice, recognize and respond  
30 to emergencies, and demonstrate professional characteristics.

31 (b) “Physician” means a person who is licensed as a  
32 physician under this chapter or as a podiatric physician under  
33 chapter 461.

34 Section 3. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (4) of  
35 section 459.022, Florida Statutes, to read:

36 459.022 Physician assistants.—

37 (4) PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—

38 (h) A supervising physician may authorize a licensed  
39 physician assistant to perform services under the direction of a



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40 podiatric physician licensed under chapter 461 who is a partner,  
41 a shareholder, or an employee of the same group practice, as  
42 defined in s. 456.053(3), as the supervising physician and the  
43 physician assistant. The supervising physician is liable for the  
44 performance and the acts and omissions of such physician  
45 assistant.

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

48 461.007 Renewal of license.—

49 (3) The board may by rule prescribe continuing education,  
50 not to exceed 40 hours biennially, as a condition for renewal of  
51 a license, including at least 2 hours of continuing education  
52 related to the safe and effective prescribing of controlled  
53 substances. The criteria for such programs or courses shall be  
54 approved by the board.

55 Section 5. Section 461.0145, Florida Statutes, is created  
56 to read:

57 461.0145 Physician assistants.—A licensed physician  
58 assistant may perform services under the direction of a licensed  
59 podiatric physician in accordance with ss. 458.347(4) and  
60 459.022(4).

61 Section 6. Section 461.0155, Florida Statutes, is created  
62 to read:

63 461.0155 Medical assistants.—A podiatric physician who is  
64 supervising a medical assistant is governed by s. 458.3485.

65 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
66 624.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

67 624.27 Direct health care agreements; exemption from code.—

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



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69 (b) "Health care provider" means a health care provider  
70 licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter  
71 461, chapter 464, or chapter 466, or a health care group  
72 practice, who provides health care services to patients.

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

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75 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

76 And the title is amended as follows:

77 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
78 and insert:

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A bill to be entitled

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An act relating to podiatric medicine; amending ss.

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458.347 and 459.022, F.S.; providing that a

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supervising physician may authorize a licensed

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physician assistant to perform services under the

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direction of a licensed podiatric physician under

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certain circumstances; specifying that the supervising

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physician is liable for the performance and the acts

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and omissions of such physician assistant; amending s.

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458.3485, F.S.; defining the term "physician" to

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include podiatric physicians; amending s. 461.007,

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F.S.; authorizing the Board of Podiatric Medicine to

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require a specified number of continuing education

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hours related to the safe and effective prescribing of

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controlled substances as a condition for licensure

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renewal; creating s. 461.0145, F.S.; authorizing a

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licensed physician assistant to perform services under

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the direction of a licensed podiatric physician under

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certain circumstances; creating s. 461.0155, F.S.;



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98 providing for governance of podiatric physicians who  
99 are supervising medical assistants; amending s.  
100 624.27, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
101 "health care provider" to include podiatric  
102 physicians; providing an effective date.