A bill to be entitled
An act relating to health care practitioner titles and abbreviations; creating s. 456.0393, F.S.; defining the terms “advertisement” and “deceptive or misleading terms or false representation”; specifying which titles and abbreviations health care practitioners may use in their advertisements, communications, and personal identification; requiring health care practitioners to disclose specified information and use only authorized titles and abbreviations in their advertisements; prohibiting health care practitioners from using deceptive or misleading terms or false representations in their advertisements; requiring health care practitioners who treat patients in person to wear a badge or clothing that clearly discloses specified information; requiring certain health care practitioners to prominently display a copy of their license in a conspicuous area of their practices; requiring that the copy of the license be a specified size; providing for denial of licensure and disciplinary action; requiring certain boards, and the Department of Health when there is no board, to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 456.0393, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

456.0393 Health care practitioner titles and abbreviations;

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
(1) As used in this section, the term:
   (a) “Advertisement” means any communication, printed, electronic, or oral, that names a health care practitioner and the practice, profession, or institution in which the practitioner is employed, volunteers, or otherwise provides health care services. The term includes business cards, identification badges, letterhead, patient brochures, e-mails, Internet websites or platforms, audio and video communications, text messages, and any other form of communication.
   (b) “Deceptive or misleading terms or false representation” means the use of titles, terms, or other words that misstate, falsely describe, falsely hold out, or falsely detail the health care practitioner’s professional skills, training, expertise, education, board certification, or licensure, and includes the misappropriation of medical titles and medical specialty titles by nonphysicians.

(2) Health care practitioners may use titles and abbreviations in their advertisements, communications, and personal identification, only as follows:
   (a) Physicians licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 may use any of the following titles and abbreviations only as applicable to their license, specialties, and certifications: “M.D.,” “D.O.,” “doctor,” “doctor of medicine,” “medical doctor,” “doctor of osteopathic medicine,” “physician,” “surgeon,” “general surgeon,” “neurosurgeon,” “orthopedic surgeon,” “medical resident,” “resident physician,” “medical intern,” “anesthesiologist,” “cardiologist,” “dermatologist,” “endocrinologist,” “gastroenterologist,” “general practitioner,”
"gynecologist," "hematologist," "hospitalist," "intensivist,"
"internist," "interventional pain medicine physician,"
"laryngologist," "nephrologist," "neurologist," "obstetrician,"
"oncologist," "ophthalmologist," "orthopedic surgeon,"
"orthopedist," "osteopath," "otologist," "otolaryngologist,"
"otorhinolaryngologist," "pathologist," "pediatrician," "primary
"care physician," "proctologist," "psychiatrist," "radiologist,"
"rheumatologist," "rhinologist," and "urologist," or any other
title, word, abbreviation, description of services, or
designation, alone or in combination with any other title, to
indicate or induce others to believe that he or she is licensed
to practice medicine.

1. Chiropractic physicians licensed under chapter 460 may
use the titles “chiropractic physician” and “doctor of
chiropractic medicine” and may use the abbreviation “D.C.” A
chiropractic physician who has attained diplomate status in a
chiropractic specialty area recognized by the American
Chiropractic Association, the International Chiropractic
Association, or the International Academy of Clinical Neurology
before July 1, 2025, may use the applicable titles in this
paragraph in conjunction with his or her name and title to
reflect such specialty area.

2. Podiatric physicians licensed under chapter 461 may use
any of the following titles and abbreviations only as applicable
to their license, specialties, and certifications: “podiatric
physician,” “doctor of podiatric medicine,” “D.P.M.,”
“podiatrist,” “podiatric surgeon,” “Fellow in the American
College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons,” and “F.A.C.F.A.S.”

3. Dentists licensed under chapter 466 may use any of the
following titles and abbreviations only as applicable to their license, specialties, and certifications: “doctor of medicine in dentistry,” “doctor of dental medicine,” “D.M.D.,” “doctor of dental surgery,” “D.D.S.,” “oral and maxillofacial surgeon,” “O.M.S.,” “periodontist,” “prosthodontist,” “endodontist,” “pediatric dentist,” “orthodontist,” “oral pathologist,” and “oral radiologist.” A dentist who has completed a dental anesthesiology residency recognized by the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology before July 1, 2025, may use the applicable titles in this paragraph in conjunction with his or her name and title to reflect such residency training.

(b) Registered nurses licensed under part I of chapter 464 may use only the title “registered nurse” and the abbreviation “R.N.”

(c) Licensed practical nurses licensed under part I of chapter 464 may use only the title “licensed practical nurse” and the abbreviation “L.P.N.”

(d) Advanced practice registered nurses licensed under part I of chapter 464 may use only the title “advanced practice registered nurse” or abbreviation “A.P.R.N.” and the following role titles and abbreviations, as applicable:

1. “Certified registered nurse anesthetist,” “nurse anesthetist,” and “C.R.N.A.”
2. “Clinical nurse specialist” and “C.N.S.”
3. “Certified nurse practitioner” and “C.N.P.”
4. “Certified nurse midwife” and “C.N.M.”
5. “Certified psychiatric nurse,” “psychiatric mental health advanced practice nurse,” and “C.P.N.”
6. “Autonomous advanced practice registered nurse” and “A.-
A.P.R.N.”

(e) Physician assistants licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 may use only the title “physician assistant” and the abbreviations “P.A.” or “P.A.-C.”

(f) Anesthesiologist assistants licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 may use only the titles “anesthesiologist assistant” or “certified anesthesiologist assistant” and the abbreviation “C.A.A.”

(g) All other health care practitioners may use only the titles and abbreviations authorized by their respective practice acts and this paragraph. Any nonphysician health care practitioner who has obtained a doctoral degree under the profession governed by the applicable practice act may use the letter “D.” in front of the abbreviations authorized by the health care practitioner’s respective practice act. However, a nonphysician health care practitioner may not use the title “doctor” in any form of advertisement, telehealth interaction, text message, or verbal communication without clearly identifying himself or herself as a “doctor” of a specific profession, citing the applicable chapter under which the health care practitioner is licensed.

(3)(a) Any advertisement by a health care practitioner must disclose the type of license under which the health care practitioner is authorized to provide services and must use only those titles and abbreviations authorized under subsection (2). Only physicians may include titles and abbreviations or medical specialties in their advertisements, as specified in paragraph (2)(a).

(b) Health care practitioners may not use deceptive or
misleading terms or false representation in their
advertisements.

(4) Health care practitioners who treat patients in person
must wear a name badge or other form of identification on their
clothing that clearly discloses the practitioner’s name, the
practitioner’s staff position, if applicable, and the type of
license, registration, or certification held by the
practitioner. Any title or abbreviation used in such
identification must be consistent with the requirements of this
section.

(5) If a health care practitioner treats patients in a
setting other than a health care facility licensed under chapter
395 or chapter 400, the health care practitioner must
prominently display a copy of his or her license in a
conspicuous area of the practice so that it is easily visible to
patients. The copy of the license must be no smaller than the
original license.

(6) Any violation of this section constitutes grounds for
denial of a license or disciplinary action as specified in the
health care practitioner’s respective practice act and as
specified in s. 456.072(2).

(7) Each board, or the department where there is no board,
shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to
implement this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.