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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to continuing education requirements; 3 amending s. 455.2123, F.S.; requiring, rather than 4 authorizing, a board, or the Department of Business 5 and Professional Regulation when there is no board, to 6 provide by rule that distance learning may be used to 7 satisfy continuing education requirements; revising 8 the requirements that such continuing education must 9 satisfy; providing applicability; amending s. 455.2124, F.S.; requiring a board, or the department 10 11 when there is no board, to exempt certain individuals from completing their continuing education 12 13 requirements; providing applicability; requiring the 14 department and each affected board to adopt rules; 15 providing an effective date.

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

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Section 455.2123, Florida Statutes, is amended Section 1. to read:

455.2123 Continuing education.—A board, or the department 22 when there is no board, shall may provide by rule that distance 23 learning may be used to satisfy continuing education 24 requirements. A board, or the department when there is no board, 25 shall approve distance learning courses as an alternative to

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classroom courses to satisfy continuing education requirements.

A board, or the department when there is no board, provided for
in part VIII, part XV, or part XVI of chapter 468 or part I or
<del>part II of chapter 475 and</del> may not require centralized
examinations for completion of continuing education requirements
for the professions licensed under part VIII, part XV, or part
XVI of chapter 468 or part I or part II of chapter 475. <u>This</u>
section does not apply to any medical board or department
regulated by the Department of Health.
Section 2. Section 455.2124, Florida Statutes, is amended
to read:
455.2124 Proration of or not requiring continuing
education
(1) A board, or the department when there is no board,
may:
$\underline{\text{(a)}}$ Prorate continuing education for new licensees by
requiring half of the required continuing education for any
applicant who becomes licensed with more than half the renewal

 $\underline{\text{(b)}}$  Require no continuing education until the first full renewal cycle of the licensee.

period remaining and no continuing education for any applicant

who becomes licensed with half or less than half of the renewal

These options shall also apply when continuing education is

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period remaining; or

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first required or the number of hours required is increased by law or the board, or the department when there is no board.

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- (2) (a) A board, or the department when there is no board, shall exempt an individual from completing the continuing education required for renewal of a license for a renewal period if the individual:
- 1. Holds an active license issued by the board, or the department when there is no board, to practice the profession;
- 2. Has continuously held the license for at least 10 years; and
  - 3. Has had no disciplinary action imposed on the license.
- (b) This subsection does not apply to any medical board or department regulated by the Department of Health.
- (3) The department and each affected board shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement this section.
- Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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