

By Senator Jones

34-01011-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to sickle cell disease care management and treatment continuing education; amending s. 456.0301, F.S.; revising requirements for a continuing education course on prescribing controlled substances which health care practitioners are required to complete; creating s. 456.0311, F.S.; requiring the applicable licensing boards for specified health care professions to require a 2-hour continuing education course on sickle cell disease care management as part of the first licensure or certification renewal; specifying requirements for the course; specifying the procedure for licensees and certificateholders to submit confirmation of completing the course; authorizing the applicable boards to approve additional equivalent courses to satisfy the requirement; authorizing the applicable boards to include the course hours in the total hours of continuing education required for the applicable profession, with an exception; authorizing health care practitioners holding two or more licenses or certificates subject to the course requirement to show proof of completion of one course to satisfy the requirement for all such licenses or certificates; providing for disciplinary action; authorizing the applicable boards to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

34-01011-26

2026844__

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 456.0301, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

456.0301 Requirement for instruction on controlled substance prescribing.—

(1)(a) The appropriate board shall require each person registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and authorized to prescribe controlled substances pursuant to 21 U.S.C. s. 822 to complete a board-approved 2-hour continuing education course on prescribing controlled substances offered by a statewide professional association of physicians in this state that is accredited to provide educational activities designated for the American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 Credit or the American Osteopathic Category 1-A continuing medical education credit as part of biennial license renewal. The course must include information on the current standards for prescribing controlled substances, particularly opiates; alternatives to these standards; nonpharmacological therapies; prescribing emergency opioid antagonists; ~~and~~ the risks of opioid addiction following all stages of treatment in the management of acute pain; and the treatment of pain for patients with sickle cell disease. The course may be offered in a distance learning format and must be included within the number of continuing education hours required by law. The department may not renew the license of any prescriber registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to prescribe controlled substances who has failed to complete the course. The course must be completed by January 31, 2019, and at each subsequent renewal. This paragraph does

34-01011-26

2026844__

not apply to a licensee who is required by his or her applicable practice act to complete a minimum of 2 hours of continuing education on the safe and effective prescribing of controlled substances.

Section 2. Section 456.0311, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

456.0311 Requirements for instruction on sickle cell disease.—

(1)(a) The applicable board shall require each person licensed or certified under chapter 458, chapter 459, or part I of chapter 464 to complete one 2-hour continuing education course, approved by the applicable board, on sickle cell disease care management as part of the first licensure or certification renewal. The course must consist of education specific to sickle cell disease and sickle cell traits, including, but not limited to, evidence-based treatment protocols for patients of all ages, continuing patient and family education, periodic comprehensive evaluations and other disease-specific health maintenance services, psychosocial care, genetic counseling, and pain management.

(b) Each licensee or certificateholder must submit confirmation of having completed such course on a form provided by the applicable board when submitting fees for the first renewal.

(c) The applicable board may approve additional equivalent courses that may be used to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a). Each licensing board that requires a licensee to complete an educational course pursuant to this section may include the hours required for completion of the course in the

34-01011-26

2026844__

total hours of continuing education required by law for such
profession unless the continuing education requirements for such
profession consist of fewer than 30 hours biennially.

(d) Any person holding two or more licenses subject to the
provisions of this section may show proof of having taken one
board-approved course to satisfy the requirements of paragraph
(a) for purposes of relicensure or recertification for
additional licenses.

(e) Failure to comply with the requirements of this section
shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action under each
respective practice act and under s. 456.072(1)(k). In addition
to discipline by the applicable board, the licensee shall be
required to complete the course required under this section.

(2) Each applicable board may adopt rules to implement this
section.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.