

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to podiatric medicine; amending s.
3 458.3485, F.S.; defining the term "physician" to
4 include podiatric physicians; amending s. 461.007,
5 F.S.; authorizing the Board of Podiatric Medicine to
6 require a specified number of continuing education
7 hours related to the safe and effective prescribing of
8 controlled substances; creating s. 461.0155, F.S.;
9 providing for governance of podiatric physicians who
10 are supervising medical assistants; amending s.
11 624.27, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
12 "health care provider" to include podiatric
13 physicians; providing an effective date.

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

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

19 458.3485 Medical assistant.—

20 (1) DEFINITION.—As used in this section:7

21 (a) "Medical assistant" means a professional multiskilled
22 person dedicated to assisting in all aspects of medical practice
23 under the direct supervision and responsibility of a physician.
24 This practitioner assists with patient care management, executes
25 administrative and clinical procedures, and often performs

26 managerial and supervisory functions. Competence in the field
27 also requires that a medical assistant adhere to ethical and
28 legal standards of professional practice, recognize and respond
29 to emergencies, and demonstrate professional characteristics.

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

33 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 461.007, Florida
34 Statutes, is amended to read:

35 461.007 Renewal of license.—

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

42 Section 3. Section 461.0155, Florida Statutes, is created
43 to read:

44 461.0155 Medical assistants.—A podiatric physician who is
45 supervising a medical assistant shall be governed by s.
46 458.3485.

47 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
48 624.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

49 624.27 Direct health care agreements; exemption from
50 code.—

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

52 (b) "Health care provider" means a health care provider
53 licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter
54 461, chapter 464, or chapter 466, or a health care group
55 practice, who provides health care services to patients.

56 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.