

By: Harrison

H.B. No. 994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of a license to practice medicine to certain applicants licensed or educated in a foreign country.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 155, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Sections 155.012 and 155.013 to read as follows:

Sec. 155.012. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE TO APPLICANT LICENSED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES. Notwithstanding Sections 155.003, 155.004, 155.005, and 155.051, the board shall issue a license to practice medicine to an applicant who presents proof satisfactory to the board that the applicant:

(1) is a resident of and licensed in good standing to practice medicine in Australia, Canada, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom;

(2) has been granted a degree of doctor of medicine or a substantially similar degree by a program of medical education determined by the board to be in good standing in accordance with board rule;

(3) has:

(A) completed a residency or substantially similar post-graduate medical training in the applicant's country of residence; or

(B) practiced as a medical professional

performing the duties of a physician in the applicant's country of residence for not less than two years;

(4) has proficiency in the English language; and

(5) is authorized under federal law to work in the United States.

Sec. 155.013. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE TO GRADUATE OF CERTAIN BOARD-APPROVED FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAMS. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 155.003, 155.004, and 155.005, the board shall issue a license to practice medicine to an applicant who satisfies:

(1) the eligibility requirements of this section; and

(2) the examination requirements of Section 155.051.

(b) To be eligible for a license under this section, an applicant must present proof satisfactory to the board that the applicant:

(1) has been granted a degree of doctor of medicine or a substantially similar degree by a foreign medical program approved under Subsection (c);

(2) is licensed in good standing to practice medicine in another country;

(3) has:

(A) completed a residency or substantially similar post-graduate medical training in the applicant's country of licensure; or

(B) practiced as a medical professional performing the duties of a physician in the applicant's country of licensure for not less than two years;

(4) has proficiency in the English language; and

1 (5) is authorized under federal law to work in the
2 United States.

3 (c) The board shall adopt rules regarding the approval of
4 foreign medical programs for purposes of this section. Rules
5 adopted under this subsection must provide that a foreign medical
6 program is eligible to apply under this section only if the program
7 is a medical school, residency program, medical internship program,
8 or other entity that provides medical education or training outside
9 of the United States that is substantially similar to the education
10 or training provided by a medical school described by Section
11 155.003(a)(4).

12 (d) The board shall approve an application under this
13 section not later than the 120th day after the date the application
14 is submitted unless:

15 (1) the board determines the applicant does not meet
16 the eligibility requirements described by Subsection (c); or

17 (2) the board finds by clear and convincing evidence
18 that the majority of the program's graduates are not likely to
19 provide medical care that satisfies applicable board standards
20 relating to safety, competency, or professional conduct in the
21 practice of medicine.

22 (e) A foreign medical program may appeal the board's denial
23 of the program's application under this section. The appeal is
24 considered to be a contested case under Chapter 2001, Government
25 Code.

26 (f) The board shall approve for purposes of this section a
27 foreign medical program if at least five graduates of the program

1 have been issued a license to practice medicine under Section
2 155.1015(c).

3 (g) The board shall maintain on the board's Internet website
4 a list of all foreign medical programs approved under this section
5 and provide a copy of the list on request.

6 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 155, Occupations Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 155.1015 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 155.1015. ISSUANCE OF PROVISIONAL LICENSE TO CERTAIN
9 FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM GRADUATES WITH OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT. (a)
10 On application, the board shall issue a provisional license to
11 practice medicine to an applicant who:

12 (1) has been granted a degree of doctor of medicine or
13 a substantially similar degree by a foreign program of medical
14 education determined to be in good standing in accordance with
15 board rule;

16 (2) is licensed in good standing to practice medicine
17 in another country;

18 (3) has:

19 (A) completed a residency or substantially
20 similar post-graduate medical training in the applicant's country
21 of licensure; or

22 (B) practiced as a medical professional
23 performing the duties of a physician in the applicant's country of
24 licensure for not less than two years;

25 (4) has proficiency in the English language;

26 (5) is authorized under federal law to work in the
27 United States;

1 (6) passes the examination required by Section
2 155.051; and

3 (7) has been offered employment in this state as a
4 physician by a person who provides health care services in the
5 normal course of business, including a health system, hospital,
6 hospital-based facility, freestanding emergency facility, or
7 urgent care clinic.

8 (b) A provisional license issued under this section expires
9 on the earlier of:

10 (1) the date the board issues the provisional license
11 holder a license under this subtitle or denies the provisional
12 license holder's application for a license under Subsection (c); or

13 (2) the third anniversary of the date the provisional
14 license was issued.

15 (c) On application, the board shall issue a license under
16 this subtitle to the holder of a provisional license under this
17 section if the provisional license holder:

18 (1) will have practiced under the provisional license
19 for at least three years at the time the license will be issued;

20 (2) passes the examination required by Section
21 155.051; and

22 (3) satisfies any other requirement under board rule
23 for the issuance of a license under this subsection.

24 SECTION 3. Not later than December 1, 2025, the Texas
25 Medical Board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement Sections
26 155.012, 155.013, and 155.1015, Occupations Code, as added by this
27 Act.

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1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.