

1-1 By: Madla, Shapleigh, Lucio S.B. No. 558  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 18, 2003; February 24, 2003,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on International  
1-4 Relations and Trade; March 18, 2003, reported adversely, with  
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays  
1-6 0; March 18, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 558 By: Lucio

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to immigration visa waivers for physicians.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 12, Health and Safety  
1-13 Code, is amended by adding Section 12.0127 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 12.0127. IMMIGRATION VISA WAIVERS FOR PHYSICIANS. The  
1-15 department, in accordance with 8 U.S.C. Section 1182(e), as  
1-16 amended, under exceptions provided by 8 U.S.C. Section 1184(l), as  
1-17 amended, may request waiver of the foreign country residence  
1-18 requirement for a qualified alien physician who agrees to practice  
1-19 medicine in a medically underserved area or health professional  
1-20 shortage area, as designated by the United States Department of  
1-21 Health and Human Services, that has a current shortage of  
1-22 physicians.

1-23 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 155.1025, Occupations  
1-24 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-25 (a) The board shall adopt rules for expediting any  
1-26 application for a license under this subtitle made by a person who  
1-27 is licensed to practice medicine in another state or country and who  
1-28 submits an affidavit with the application stating that:

1-29 (1) the applicant intends to practice in a rural  
1-30 community, as determined by the Office of Rural Community Affairs  
1-31 [~~Center for Rural Health Initiatives~~]; or

1-32 (2) the applicant intends to practice medicine [~~+~~  
1-33 [~~(A) accept employment with an entity located~~] in  
1-34 a medically underserved area or health professional shortage area,  
1-35 designated by the United States Department of Health and Human  
1-36 Services, that has a current shortage of physicians [~~and affiliated~~  
1-37 ~~with or participating in a public university-sponsored graduate~~  
1-38 ~~medical education program,~~

1-39 [~~(B) serve on the faculty of the public~~  
1-40 ~~university-sponsored graduate medical education program, and~~

1-41 [~~(C) engage in the practice of medicine and~~  
1-42 ~~teaching in a specialty field of medicine that is necessary to~~  
1-43 ~~obtain or maintain the accreditation of the public~~  
1-44 ~~university-sponsored graduate medical education program by the~~  
1-45 ~~Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education].~~

1-46 SECTION 3. Section 51.949, Education Code, as added by  
1-47 Chapter 1293, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001,  
1-48 is repealed.

1-49 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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