

AN ACT

relating to provisional licensing of physicians to practice in underserved areas.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 155, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 155.101 to read as follows:

Sec. 155.101. PROVISIONAL LICENSE TO PRACTICE IN CERTAIN AREAS. (a) On application, the board shall grant a provisional license to practice medicine in a location described by Subsection (e) to an applicant for a license under this subtitle who is licensed in good standing as a physician in another state.

(b) The board may not grant a provisional license under this section to an applicant who:

(1) has had a medical license suspended or revoked by another state or a Canadian province; or

(2) holds a medical license issued by another state or a Canadian province that is subject to a restriction, disciplinary order, or probationary order.

(c) The provisional license applicant must:

(1) have passed a national or other examination recognized by the board relating to the practice of medicine within the number of attempts allowed under Section 155.056;

(2) submit information to enable the board to conduct a criminal background check as required by the board; and

1 (3) be sponsored by a person licensed under this
2 subtitle with whom the provisional license holder may practice
3 under this section.

4 (d) The board may excuse an applicant for a provisional
5 license from the requirement of Subsection (c)(3) if the board
6 determines that compliance with that subsection constitutes a
7 hardship to the applicant.

8 (e) A person who holds a provisional license issued under
9 this section may only practice medicine in a location:

10 (1) designated by the federal government as a health
11 professional shortage area; or

12 (2) designated by the federal or state government as a
13 medically underserved area.

14 (f) A provisional license expires on the earlier of:

15 (1) the date the board issues the provisional license
16 holder a license under this subtitle or denies the provisional
17 license holder's application for a license; or

18 (2) the 270th day after the date the provisional
19 license was issued.

20 (g) The board shall issue a license under this subtitle to
21 the holder of a provisional license under this section if:

22 (1) the provisional license holder passes the
23 examination required by Section 155.051; and

24 (2) the provisional license holder satisfies all other
25 license requirements under this subtitle.

26 SECTION 2. Section 155.101, Occupations Code, as added by
27 this Act, applies to an application for a provisional license

S.B. No. 202

1 submitted on or after January 1, 2010.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 202 passed the Senate on March 19, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 202 passed the House on May 25, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor