

By: Nelson
(Zerwas)

S.B. No. 189

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility of certain aliens for a license to practice medicine in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 155, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 155.0045 to read as follows:

Sec. 155.0045. ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN ALIENS. (a) A license applicant who is not a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States must present proof satisfactory to the board that the applicant has practiced medicine or has signed an agreement to practice medicine as a condition of the license for at least three years in an area in this state that is designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as a health professional shortage area or a medically underserved area.

(b) Subsection (a) does not prohibit the board from issuing a license to an applicant described by that subsection who is applying for a license to practice medicine at a graduate medical training program in this state that is not in an area described by that subsection.

(c) The board shall adopt rules and procedures to implement this section, including rules to determine whether the applicant is complying with the agreement required under Subsection (a).

(d) The board by rule may limit the license to practice

1 medicine of an applicant described by Subsection (a) to an area in
2 this state that is designated by the United States Department of
3 Health and Human Services as a health professional shortage area or
4 a medically underserved area.

5 SECTION 2. Not later than May 1, 2012, the Texas Medical
6 Board shall adopt the rules necessary to implement Section
7 155.0045, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
9 an application for an initial license to practice medicine made on
10 or after September 1, 2012. An application for an initial license
11 to practice medicine made before that date and the subsequent
12 renewal of the license is covered by the law in effect when the
13 application was made, and the former law is continued in effect for
14 that purpose.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.