

HB 881

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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Health Care Regulation Committee recommends the following:

2
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to physician licensure requirements;
7 amending s. 458.3124, F.S.; revising criteria by which
8 certain foreign-trained physicians may receive a
9 restricted license and apply to take a certain portion of
10 the United States Medical Licensing Examination; revising
11 requirements for a foreign-trained physician applying for
12 certain licensure; creating s. 458.3126, F.S.; defining
13 the term "international medical graduate"; providing
14 legislative intent; providing references to statutory
15 requirements and a summary of options available for
16 international medical graduates to become qualified to
17 practice medicine in the state; providing an effective
18 date.

19
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
22 Section 1. Section 458.3124, Florida Statutes, is amended
23 to read:

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24 458.3124 Restricted license; certain experienced foreign-
25 trained physicians.--

26 (1) A person who was trained in a medical school that is
27 listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools published by
28 the World Health Organization and is located in a country other
29 than the United States, Canada, or Puerto Rico may receive a
30 restricted license and apply to take Step III of the United
31 States Medical Licensing Examination, if the person:

32 (a) Legally practiced medicine for at least 5 years in the
33 country in which the school is located;

34 (b) Has passed Steps I and II, including the clinical
35 knowledge and clinical skills components, of the United States
36 Medical Licensing Examination;

37 (c) Is certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign
38 Medical Graduates as qualified for a restricted license to
39 practice medicine;

40 (d) Is not subject to discipline, investigation, or
41 prosecution in any jurisdiction for acts that threaten the
42 public health, safety, or welfare or violate chapter 456 or this
43 chapter; and

44 (e) Has been a resident of this state for at least 5 years
45 since July 1, 1996.

46 (2) A person applying for licensure under this section
47 must submit to the Department of Health ~~on or before December~~
48 ~~31, 2000~~;

49 ~~(a)~~ a completed application and documentation required by
50 the Board of Medicine to prove compliance with subsection (1). ~~+~~
51 and

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52 ~~(b) A nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$500 and~~
53 ~~a nonrefundable examination fee not to exceed \$300 plus the~~
54 ~~actual cost to purchase and administer the examination.~~

55 ~~(3) A person applying under this section may take the~~
56 ~~examination a maximum of 5 times within 5 years.~~

57 (3)~~(4)~~ A restricted licensee under this section must
58 practice under the supervision of a licensee approved by the
59 board, with the first year of licensure under direct supervision
60 and the second year in community service under indirect
61 supervision, including practicing with organizations that serve
62 indigent populations, such as s. 501(c)(3) agencies, public
63 health units, prisons, or other organizations approved by the
64 board.

65 (4)~~(5)~~ Notwithstanding s. 458.311(1)(f), a person who
66 successfully meets the requirements of this section and who
67 successfully passes Step III of the United States Medical
68 Licensing Examination is eligible for full licensure as a
69 physician.

70 (5)~~(6)~~ The board shall adopt rules to implement this
71 section.

72 Section 2. Section 458.3126, Florida Statutes, is created
73 to read:

74 458.3126 International medical graduates.--

75 (1) An "international medical graduate," also referred to
76 as a "foreign-trained physician," is a person who has trained in
77 an allopathic foreign medical school that is listed in the
78 International Medical Education Directory and is located outside
79 the United States, Canada, or Puerto Rico.

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80 (2) Pursuant to s. 456.021(1), it is the intent of the
81 Legislature to use foreign-speaking state residents who are duly
82 qualified to become actively qualified in their respective
83 professions so that all people of this state may receive better
84 services. The intent of this section is to provide a summary of
85 the different options available for international medical
86 graduates to practice medicine in the state. The following
87 summary of options is not inclusive, and it is recommended that
88 the entire section of any statute referenced in paragraphs (a)-
89 (d) be read to ensure full compliance.

90 (a) An international medical graduate may receive a full
91 license if he or she, among other requirements under s. 458.311,
92 has a valid Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
93 (ECFMG), has completed a 2-year approved residency in one
94 specialty area, and has obtained a passing score on all steps of
95 the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).

96 (b) An international medical graduate may receive a
97 restricted license and sit for Step III of the USMLE if he or
98 she, among other requirements under s. 458.3124, passed Steps I
99 and II of the USMLE, has been certified by the ECFMG, and has
100 been a resident of the state for at least 5 years. Under s.
101 458.3124(3), an international medical graduate who is a
102 restricted licensee must practice under the direct supervision
103 of a board-approved licensed physician for the first year of
104 licensure and under the indirect supervision of a physician in a
105 community service setting that serves the indigent population
106 for the second year of licensure. If the international medical

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107 graduate passes Step III of the USMLE, he or she is eligible for
108 full licensure under s. 458.3124(4).

109 (c) An international medical graduate may practice in a
110 hospital or teaching hospital as a house physician under s.
111 458.345. The registration application is renewable every 2 years
112 under s. 458.345.

113 (d) An international medical graduate who is a visiting
114 physician may be issued a temporary certificate under ss.
115 458.3135 and 458.3137 and a medical faculty certificate under s.
116 458.3145.

117 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.