

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

---

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Health Policy

---

**BILL:** CS/SB 218

**INTRODUCER:** Health Policy Committee and Senator Harrell

**SUBJECT:** Licensure Requirements for Osteopathic Physicians

**DATE:** October 22, 2019      **REVISED:** \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rossitto-Van Winkle	Brown	HP	Fav/CS
2.	_____	_____	AP	_____
3.	_____	_____	RC	_____

**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

---

**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 218 updates the osteopathic internship and residency accrediting agencies to include the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and repeals the Board of Osteopathic Medicine’s (BOOM) authority to approve other internship programs upon a showing of good cause.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Osteopathic Physicians**

There are two types of medical physicians fully licensed to practice in Florida. Those holding the M.D. degree – doctor of allopathic medicine – licensed under ch. 458, F.S.; and those holding the D.O. degree – doctor of osteopathic medicine – licensed under ch. 459, F.S. Both types of physicians are licensed in Florida to perform surgery and prescribe medicine in hospitals, clinics, and private practices, as well as throughout the U.S. Osteopathic physicians offer all the same services as M.D.s.

Osteopathic physicians can specialize in every recognized area of medicine, from neonatology to neurosurgery, but more than half of all osteopathic physicians practice in primary care areas, such as pediatrics, general practice, obstetrics/gynecology, and internal medicine.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Osteopathic Residencies and Florida Licensure***

After acquiring a four-year undergraduate college degree with requisite science classes, students are accepted into one of the nation's 21 osteopathic medical schools accredited by the Bureau of Professional Education of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Following graduation, osteopathic physicians complete an approved 12-month internship. Interns rotate through hospital departments, including internal medicine, family practice, and surgery. They may then choose to complete a residency program in a specialty area, which requires two to six years of additional training.<sup>2</sup>

Any person desiring to be licensed, or certified, as an osteopathic physician in Florida must:

- Submit an application with a fee;
- Be at least 21 years of age;
- Be of good moral character;
- Have completed at least three years of pre-professional postsecondary education;
- Have not previously committed any act that would constitute a violation of ch. 459, F.S.;
- Not be under investigation anywhere for an act that would constitute a violation of ch. 459, F.S.;
- Have not been denied a license to practice osteopathic medicine, or had his or her osteopathic medicine license revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against by any jurisdiction;
- Have met the criteria for:
  - A limited license under s. 459.0075, F.S.;
  - An osteopathic faculty certificate under s. 459.0077, F.S.; or,
  - A resident physician, intern, or fellow under s. 459.021, F.S.
- Demonstrate that he or she is a graduate of a medical college recognized and approved by the AOA; and
- Demonstrate that he or she has successfully completed a resident internship of not less than 12 months in a hospital approved by the Board of Trustees of the AOA or any other internship program approved by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine (BOOM) upon a showing of good cause; and
- Demonstrate that he or she has achieved a passing score, established by rule of the BOOM, on all parts of the examination conducted by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners or other examination approved by the BOOM no more than five years before making application.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Florida Osteopathic Medical Association, *Osteopathic Medicine*, available at: <http://www.foma.org/osteopathic-medicine.html> (last visited Sept 9, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Section 459.0055, F.S.

### *The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)*

The ACGME is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to improve health care and population health by assessing and advancing the quality of resident physicians' education through accreditation.

In the academic year 2018-19, there were approximately 830 ACGME-accredited institutions sponsoring approximately 11,200 residency and fellowship programs in 180 specialties and subspecialties. Accreditation is achieved through a voluntary process of evaluation and review based on published accreditation standards. ACGME accreditation provides assurance that a sponsoring institution or program meets the quality standards (institutional and program requirements) of the specialty or subspecialty practice(s) for which it prepares its graduates.

ACGME accreditation is overseen by a review committee made up of volunteer specialty experts from the field that set accreditation standards and provide peer evaluation of sponsoring institutions and specialty and subspecialty residency and fellowship programs.<sup>4</sup>

The ACGME was established by five medical organizations in 1981<sup>5</sup> and, in 2014, was joined by the AOA and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. A primary responsibility of each of the organizations is to nominate individuals to be considered for membership on the ACGME Board of Directors. The ACGME board currently includes 24 members nominated by member organizations, two resident members, three public directors, four at-large directors, the chair of the Council of Review Committee Chairs, and two non-voting federal representatives.

The ACGME sets standards for graduate medical education (GME) and renders residency accreditation decisions based on compliance with those standards. The member organizations are corporately separate from the ACGME and do not participate in accreditation, pay dues, or make any other monetary contribution to the ACGME. In Academic Year 2018-2019, there were approximately 11,700 ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship programs in 181 specialties and subspecialties at approximately 850 Sponsoring Institutions. There were approximately 140,500 active full and part time residents and fellows. One out of seven active physicians in the United States is a resident or fellow.<sup>6</sup>

As of June 2020, all osteopathic residency programs for GME will need to be ACGME accredited. As the AOA guides residency programs through the process, resident physicians will be protected throughout the transition. If a residency program does not achieve ACGME accreditation by June 2020, a resident who has not completed the required training will be able to complete AOA-accredited training and advance to AOA board eligibility. This is the result of an agreement between the AOA, the ACGME, and the American Association of Colleges of

---

<sup>4</sup> American Council of Graduate Medical Education, *What We Do*, available at: <https://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Overview> (last visited Sept. 9, 2019).

<sup>5</sup> American Council of Graduate Medical Education, *Member Organizations*, available at: <https://www.acgme.org/About-Us/Overview/Member-Organizations> (last visited Sept. 9, 2019). The five organizations are: The American Board of Medical Specialists, The American Hospital Association, The American Medical Association, The Association of American Medical Colleges, and Council of Medical Specialty Societies.

<sup>6</sup> American Council of Graduate Medical Education, *About Us*, available at: <https://www.acgme.org/About-Us/Overview> (last visited Sept. 10, 2019)

Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) that gives the AOA restricted authority to extend the AOA accreditation date to allow any remaining resident physicians to finish training in an accredited program. If a resident physician's program does not achieve ACGME accreditation by June 2020, he or she may also be able to transfer to another ACGME accredited program.<sup>7</sup>

### ***The National Resident Matching Program***

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) is a private, not-for-profit corporation established in 1952 to optimize the rank-ordered choices of applicants and program directors for residencies and fellowships. The NRMP is not an application processing service. Instead, it provides an impartial venue for matching applicants' and programs' preferences for each other using an internationally recognized mathematical algorithm.

The first Main Residency Match® ("Match") was conducted in 1952 when 10,400 internship positions were available for 6,000 graduating U.S. medical school seniors. By 1973, there were 19,000 positions for just over 10,000 graduating U.S. seniors. Following the demise of internships in 1975, the number of first-year post-graduate (PGY-1) positions declined to 15,700. The number of PGY-1 positions gradually increased through 1994 and then began to decline slowly until 1998. In 2019, there was an all-time high of 32,194 PGY-1 positions offered. The total number of positions offered, including, PGY-1 and second-year post-graduates (PGY-2), was also at an all-time high of 35,185.<sup>8</sup>

Beginning in 2014, osteopathic medical school graduates could participate in the Match, which opened up additional residency programs available to osteopathic medical graduates.<sup>9</sup> In 2019, 6001 osteopathic candidates applied to the Match and 5077 matched – an 84.6 percent match rate.<sup>10</sup> By June 2020, an osteopathic residency program will need to be accredited by ACGME to participate in the Main Residency Match.<sup>11</sup>

All residents who have completed an AOA- or ACGME-accredited residency program are eligible for AOA board certification. AOA board certification is a quality marker for patients that highlights the commitment to the uniquely osteopathic approach to patient care and allows engagement in continuous professional development throughout a career. Requirements are slightly different for osteopathic medical physicians pursuing certification through the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The ABMS requires candidates' residency programs to have been ACGME-accredited for a specified amount of time. Requirements vary by specialty.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> American Osteopathic Association, *What does single GME mean for DO resident physicians?* available at: <https://osteopathic.org/residents/resident-resources/residents-single-gme/> (last visited Oct. 17, 2019).

<sup>8</sup> The Match, National Resident Matching Program, Results and Data 2019 Main Residency Match, *About the NRMP*, pp. v, 1, available at [https://mk0nrmp3oyqui6wqfm.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/NRMP-Results-and-Data-2019\\_04112019\\_final.pdf](https://mk0nrmp3oyqui6wqfm.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/NRMP-Results-and-Data-2019_04112019_final.pdf) (last visited Sept. 9, 2019).

<sup>9</sup> The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, *Member Organizations*, available at: <https://www.acgme.org/About-Us/Member-Organizations>, (last visited Sept. 10, 2019).

<sup>10</sup> *Supra* note 8.

<sup>11</sup> The Match, National Residency Match Program, *2020 Match Participation Agreement for Applicants and Programs*, available at: <https://mk0nrmp3oyqui6wqfm.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2020-MPA-Main-Residency-Match-for-Applicants-and-Programs.pdf> (last visited Sept. 10, 2019).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill amends s. 459.0055, F.S., to recognize the agreement between the AOA and the ACGME. Both organizations have committed to improving the patient care delivered by resident and fellow physicians, today and in their future independent practice, and to do so in clinical learning environments characterized by excellence in care, safety, and professionalism, thereby creating a single path for GME.

This single path for GME will allow osteopathic and allopathic medical school graduates to seek residencies and fellowship programs accreditation by the ACGME. This will enable osteopathic medical school graduates, residents, and fellows to apply to the National Resident Match Program and participate in the Main Residency Match for internships, residencies, and fellowships, thereby creating more residency opportunities for osteopathic residents. ACGME accreditation of osteopathic programs will also permit osteopathic medical physicians to pursue board certification through the ABMS.

The bill deletes reference to the Board of Trustees of the AOA as an internship and residency accrediting organization during the transition to a single path for GME, while maintaining reference to the AOA, and repeals the BOOM's authority to accredit other internship programs upon a showing of good cause.

The bill will take effect upon becoming law.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 459.0055.

**IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)**CS by Health Policy on October 22, 2019:**

The CS makes technical changes and repeals the BOOM's authority to approve other internship programs upon a showing of good cause.

## B. Amendments:

None.