

SENATE BILL 489

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By: ~~Senator Lam~~ Senators Lam, Lewis Young, Beidle, Hayes, and A. Washington

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Physicians Trained in ~~International Medical Schools~~**
3 **Foreign Countries – Exemption From Educational Requirements and Limited**
4 **License**

5 FOR the purpose of ~~establishing that certain applicants for a physician license are exempt~~
6 ~~from certain educational requirements if the applicant submits certain evidence of~~
7 ~~international postgraduate medical education training accredited by a certain entity;~~
8 ~~authorizing certain licensed physicians trained in international medical schools to~~
9 ~~practice medicine during their initial license term only under supervision; altering~~
10 ~~the exemption from certain educational requirements required for a license to~~
11 ~~practice medicine for certain applicants who have studied at an international~~
12 ~~medical school; authorizing the State Board of Physicians to issue a limited license~~
13 ~~to practice medicine to a physician trained and licensed in a foreign country under~~
14 ~~certain circumstances; and generally relating to physicians trained in international~~
15 ~~medical schools~~ foreign countries.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – Health Occupations
18 Section 14-101(a)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article – Health Occupations
23 Section ~~14-308(b)(6)(i) and 14-314(a)~~ 14-101(g) and 14-308

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

3 BY adding to
4 Article – Health Occupations
5 Section 14–308
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

10 **Article – Health Occupations**

11 ~~14–308.~~

12 ~~(b) An applicant for a license is exempt from the educational requirements of §~~
13 ~~14–307 of this subtitle, if the applicant:~~

14 ~~(6) Meets one of the following requirements:~~

15 ~~(i) The applicant graduated from any international medical school~~
16 ~~and submits evidence acceptable to the Board of successful completion of 2 years of training~~
17 ~~in a postgraduate medical education program accredited by [an] THE ACCREDITATION~~
18 ~~COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL (ACGME-I) OR~~
19 ~~ANOTHER accrediting organization recognized by the Board; or~~

20 ~~14–314.~~

21 ~~(a) (1) [Except] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND~~
22 ~~EXCEPT as otherwise provided in this title, a license authorizes the licensee to practice~~
23 ~~medicine while the license is effective.~~

24 ~~(2) A LICENSEE WHO QUALIFIES UNDER § 14–308(B)(6)(I) OF THIS~~
25 ~~SUBTITLE MAY PRACTICE MEDICINE DURING THE LICENSEE’S INITIAL LICENSE~~
26 ~~TERM ONLY UNDER SUPERVISION, AS REQUIRED BY THE BOARD.~~

27 14–101.

28 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

29 (g) (1) “License” means, unless the context requires otherwise, a license issued
30 by the Board to practice medicine or an allied health profession regulated by the Board.

31 (2) “LICENSE” INCLUDES, UNLESS THE CONTEXT REQUIRES
32 OTHERWISE, A LIMITED LICENSE ISSUED UNDER § 14–308 OF THIS TITLE.

1 [14-308.] 14-307.1.

2 [(a) (1) In this section the following terms have the meanings indicated.]

3 (2) "Fifth pathway program" means a program that the Board approves in
4 its regulations for a student who:

5 (i) Has studied medicine at an international medical school;

6 (ii) Was a United States citizen when the student enrolled in the
7 international medical school; and

8 (iii) Has completed all of the formal requirements for graduation
9 from the international medical school, except for any social service or postgraduate
10 requirements.

11 (3) "International medical school" means a medical school located outside
12 of the United States, its territories or possessions, Puerto Rico, or Canada.

13 (b) An applicant for a license is exempt from the educational requirements of §
14 14-307 of this subtitle, if the applicant:

15 (1) Has studied medicine at an international medical school;

16 (2) Is certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical
17 Graduates or by its successor as approved by the Board;

18 (3) Passes a qualifying examination for international medical school
19 graduates required by the Board;

20 (4) Meets any other qualifications for international medical school
21 graduates that the Board establishes in its regulation for licensing of applicants;

22 (5) Submits acceptable evidence to the Board of the requirements set in the
23 Board's regulations; and

24 (6) [Meets one of the following requirements:

25 (i) The applicant graduated] GRADUATED from any international
26 medical school and submits evidence acceptable to the Board of successful completion of 2
27 years of POSTGRADUATE training in [a postgraduate medical education program] AN
28 accredited TRAINING PROGRAM [by an accrediting organization recognized by the Board;
29 or

1 (ii) The applicant successfully completed a fifth pathway program
2 and submits evidence acceptable to the Board that the applicant:

3 1. Has a document issued by the international medical school
4 certifying that the applicant completed all of the formal requirements of that school for the
5 study of medicine, except for the postgraduate or social service components as required by
6 the international country or its medical school;

7 2. Has successfully completed a fifth pathway program; and

8 3. Has successfully completed 2 years of training in a
9 postgraduate medical education program following completion of a Board approved fifth
10 pathway program].

11 **14-308.**

12 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, "HEALTH CARE FACILITY" MEANS:**

13 **(1) A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT;**

14 **(2) A SCHOOL OF MEDICINE;**

15 **(3) A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER;**

16 **(4) A HEALTH SYSTEM;**

17 **(5) A HOSPITAL;**

18 **(6) A HOSPITAL-BASED FACILITY; OR**

19 **(7) A FREESTANDING EMERGENCY FACILITY.**

20 **(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PHYSICIAN WHO:**

21 **(1) HAS COMPLETED:**

22 **(I) A RESIDENCY ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION**
23 **COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION;**

24 **(II) A RESIDENCY ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN**
25 **OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION; OR**

26 **(III) ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS**
27 **ACCREDITED RESIDENCY TRAINING IN CANADA; OR**

1 **(2) PREVIOUSLY HELD A MEDICAL LICENSE ISSUED IN THE UNITED**
2 **STATES OR CANADA.**

3 **(C) BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2028, THE BOARD MAY ISSUE A LIMITED**
4 **LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE TO A PHYSICIAN TRAINED AND LICENSED IN A**
5 **FOREIGN COUNTRY WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

6 **(D) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A LIMITED LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION, AN**
7 **APPLICANT SHALL:**

8 **(1) BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER;**

9 **(2) HAVE RECEIVED A DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE OR ITS**
10 **EQUIVALENT FROM A MEDICAL SCHOOL LOCATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**
11 **WITH RECOGNIZED ACCREDITATION STATUS FROM THE EDUCATIONAL**
12 **COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES;**

13 **(3) HAVE COMPLETED AT LEAST 2 YEARS OF TRAINING IN A**
14 **RESIDENCY PROGRAM:**

15 **(I) ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE**
16 **MEDICAL EDUCATION – INTERNATIONAL;**

17 **(II) IN A COUNTRY WHOSE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**
18 **ACCREDITING AGENCY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE WORLD FEDERATION FOR**
19 **MEDICAL EDUCATION; OR**

20 **(III) ACCREDITED BY ANOTHER ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY**
21 **APPROVED BY THE BOARD;**

22 **(4) (I) HAVE BEEN IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE MEDICAL**
23 **LICENSING OR REGULATORY AUTHORITY IN THE FOREIGN COUNTRY AT THE TIME**
24 **OF THE APPLICANT’S DEPARTURE; OR**

25 **(II) IF REASONABLE ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN THE INDIVIDUAL’S**
26 **LICENSURE STATUS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL, BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON**
27 **AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS;**

28 **(5) HAVE NO PENDING DISCIPLINARY MATTERS BEFORE A LICENSING**
29 **OR REGULATORY BODY;**

30 **(6) HAVE AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT WITH A PARTICIPATING**
31 **HEALTH CARE FACILITY THAT WILL EVALUATE THE APPLICANT’S NONCLINICAL**

1 SKILLS AND FAMILIARITY WITH STANDARDS APPROPRIATE FOR MEDICAL PRACTICE
2 IN THE STATE; AND

3 (7) SATISFY ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE
4 BOARD IN REGULATION, INCLUDING PRIOR PRACTICE EXPERIENCE.

5 (E) THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE AN APPLICANT INELIGIBLE FOR A
6 LIMITED LICENSE IF THE APPLICANT:

7 (1) WAS SUBJECT TO PREVIOUS DISCIPLINARY ACTION;

8 (2) HAD DISCIPLINE OR COMPETENCY PROBLEMS DURING THE
9 APPLICANT'S POSTGRADUATE TRAINING; OR

10 (3) FAILS TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE ACCEPTABLE TO THE BOARD THAT
11 THE APPLICANT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A LIMITED LICENSE.

12 (F) TO APPLY FOR A LIMITED LICENSE, AN APPLICANT SHALL:

13 (1) SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD ON THE FORM THAT THE
14 BOARD REQUIRES; AND

15 (2) PAY TO THE BOARD AN APPLICATION FEE SET BY THE BOARD.

16 (G) (1) THE TERM OF A LIMITED LICENSE MAY NOT EXCEED 3 YEARS.

17 (2) A LIMITED LICENSE MAY NOT BE RENEWED.

18 (H) A LIMITED LICENSE AUTHORIZES THE HOLDER TO PRACTICE MEDICINE
19 ONLY:

20 (1) WHILE EMPLOYED IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT BY THE HEALTH
21 CARE FACILITY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (D)(6) OF THIS SECTION; AND

22 (2) IN THE EMPLOYING HEALTH CARE FACILITY OR A HEALTH CARE
23 FACILITY OPERATED BY THE EMPLOYING HEALTH CARE FACILITY.

24 (I) THE BOARD MAY REVOKE A LIMITED LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THIS
25 SECTION IF:

26 (1) THE LICENSEE PRACTICES OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE LIMITED
27 LICENSE;

28 (2) THE LICENSEE IS NO LONGER EMPLOYED BY THE HEALTH CARE
29 FACILITY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (D)(6) OF THIS SECTION;

1 **(3) THE LICENSEE PRACTICES MEDICINE OUTSIDE THE STATE**
2 **WITHOUT BEING LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE OTHER**
3 **JURISDICTION;**

4 **(4) THE LICENSEE HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO A DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY**
5 **THE HEALTH CARE FACILITY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (D)(6) OF THIS SECTION OR**
6 **THE BOARD; OR**

7 **(5) THE LICENSEE IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR THE LIMITED**
8 **LICENSE.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of Physicians
10 shall consult with MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, on the development of
11 policies and regulations implementing this Act.

12 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.