

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 489

(Senator Lam)

Finance

Health Occupations - Physicians Trained in International Medical Schools

This bill specifies that applicants for a physician license from the Maryland Board of Physicians (MBP) who submit evidence of successfully completing two years of training in a postgraduate medical education program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-International (ACGME-I) are exempt from existing educational requirements. An individual licensed under this exemption may only practice medicine under supervision during their initial license term.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: There is no material impact on State revenues or expenditures.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Pursuant to § 14-307 of the Health Occupations Article, to qualify for a license as a physician, an applicant must be at least age 18, of good moral character, meet specified education requirements, pass an examination, submit to a criminal history records check, and meet any other requirements MBP establishes through regulations.

An applicant must (1) have a doctoral degree of medicine that is accredited by an MBP-recognized organization and submit evidence to MBP of successful completion of one year of training in a postgraduate medical training program that is accredited by an MBP-recognized organization or (2) have a doctoral degree of osteopathy from a school of osteopathy in the United States, its territories or possessions, Puerto Rico, or Canada that has standards for graduation equivalent to those established by the American Osteopathic

Association and submit acceptable evidence to MBP of successful completion of one year of training in a postgraduate medical training program that is accredited by an MBP-recognized organization.

However, under current law, an applicant for a physician license is exempt from the above specified educational requirements if the applicant:

- has studied medicine at a foreign medical school;
- is certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or its successor as approved by MBP;
- passes a qualifying examination for foreign medical school graduates required by MBP;
- meets any other qualifications for foreign medical school graduates that MBP establishes in its regulation for licensing of applicants;
- submits acceptable evidence to MBP of any requirements established in regulation; and
- meets at least one of the following requirements: (1) the applicant graduated from any foreign medical school and submits acceptable evidence to MBP of successful completion of two years of training in a postgraduate medical education program accredited by an MBP-recognized organization or (2) the applicant successfully completed a fifth pathway program and submits specified evidence to MBP.

Additional Comments: [Guidance](#) from the Advisory Commission on Additional Licensing Models included ACGME-I as a possible resource for determining whether an international program is substantially similar to existing educational requirements, but did not explicitly recommend states adopt it.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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me/jc

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