

TO: The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations

FROM: Brandon Floyd
Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs

DATE: March 10, 2025

RE: HB1199 Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians

HB1199
Favorable with
Amendments

Johns Hopkins supports with amendments **HB 1199 Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians**. This bill permits the State Board of Physicians to issue a temporary, non-renewable license to internationally trained physicians and develop a pathway to full licensure. The bill mandates educational, training, English competency, state residency, and good standing requirements for incoming physicians.

Johns Hopkins is supportive of efforts to expand the healthcare workforce which in turn expands access to health care. Regrettably, Johns Hopkins continues to experience workforce challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly strained and overwhelmed our providers. This legislation, while not a panacea, mitigates these shortages by improving the licensing process for international physicians to work in Maryland. Other states have adopted similar legislation that supports the pipeline of internationally trained physicians practicing in the U.S., and we believe that Maryland should be a leader in employing credentialed international physicians.

Although we support the aim of this legislation, we want to ensure qualified physicians are not unintentionally restricted from practicing in Maryland. Consequently, we respectfully propose the following amendments:

- Strike the one-year Maryland state residency requirement for physicians who have received an offer of employment from a Maryland school of medicine, and
- Modify the five-year practicing requirement to require a physician to have practiced medicine in five of the last seven years.

These amendments affirm that well-trained physicians, who would otherwise be permitted to practice medicine, are not disqualified from practicing because they have not resided in the state for one year, or have lapses in practicing.

Addressing workforce shortages requires a multifaceted approach which includes streamlining pathways for internationally trained physicians to join our workforce. By implementing these strategies, we can enhance healthcare access for Marylanders. Moreover, investing in our physician workforce is a critical step toward improving the overall health and wellbeing of our communities.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** committee report on **HB1199**.