

House Bill 1199 – Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians

Position: Favor with Amendment

March 10, 2025

Health and Government Operations Committee

University of Maryland Faculty Physicians, Inc. (“FPI”) and the University of Maryland School of Medicine (the “SOM”) respectfully submit this letter requesting amendment to House Bill 1199 – Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians (“HB 1199”). FPI provides oversight, management, and administrative support services to its affiliated physician practice groups, including the faculty practices of the SOM. As introduced, HB 1199 would authorize the Maryland Board of Physicians to issue a limited license to practice medicine to certain physicians who trained outside of the United States and Canada without need for an additional ACGME-accredited residency.

The intent of HB 1199 is to address shortages of health care providers experienced within the state, and to improve timely access to high-quality care for Maryland residents and visiting patients. FPI and SOM strongly support the legislature addressing these goals.

Currently, a number of our physician practices are experiencing shortages of physician candidates which a law like HB 1199 may help address. As the committee is aware, University of Maryland Medical Center operates with a closed faculty model, so physician shortages experienced by the UMSOM directly impact the care available at UMMC. To operationalize the bill’s goals, we are respectfully requesting that the following:

- Amend line 30 of page 2 so that the **one (1) year Maryland residency requirement does not apply to applicants to whom a Maryland school of medicine has made an offer of employment**. While we understand the HB 1199 workgroup’s preference for a nexus to Maryland, physician shortages experienced by our faculty practices would be alleviated if it were possible to recruit physicians who are licensed and practicing abroad, while not requiring the physician-recruit to move to Maryland a year or more before licensure is achieved.
- Amend line 16 of page 2 to read: “(4) ...and has practiced medicine for at least five **of the last seven** years immediately preceding the date of application.” Several other states’ laws are structured similarly, which would prevent disqualifying candidates who have immigrated already but not yet achieved licensing.¹
 - Logically, either adding an outer limit (e.g., “five of the last seven years”) or removing the one-year Maryland residency requirement appears to be needed, as most internationally trained physicians without a Maryland license will not be able to both live in Maryland for one (1) year and be actively practicing in another jurisdiction immediately prior to applying for this licensure.

Separately, FPI and UMSOM urge the legislature and Board of Physicians to either amend Maryland’s conceded eminence pathway to licensure or create a new limited license available to candidates working with a school of medicine within the State. Virginia has a limited professorial/fellow license pathway that is

¹ The laws of Illinois and Tennessee provide for an outer limit as to number of years practicing.

markedly more streamlined and less restrictive than Maryland's conceded eminence pathway.² If this disparity is not addressed, Virginia's schools of medicine and academic medical centers will have a competitive advantage over Maryland institutions in recruiting and hiring qualified international candidates.³ Maryland's conceded eminence requirements are very specific and research-focused, while the main requirement of the Virginia pathway is recommendation by the school of medicine dean. While research is an important aspect of UMSOM's mission, Maryland's additional requirements preclude our ability to hire talented, experienced physicians who are more focused on patient care, which Marylanders need with more immediacy.

Finally, Maryland's conceded eminence pathway (or a new university-specific pathway) should allow for permanent licensure after three to five years of working for a Maryland school of medicine, without the applicant needing to satisfy additional requirements.

For these reasons, University of Maryland Faculty Physicians, Inc. and University of Maryland School of Medicine support HB 1199 and respectfully request the above amendments. We also request that the Committee and Board of Physicians either modify Maryland's conceded eminence pathway or create a new university-specific pathway as another mechanism to address physician shortages in Maryland.

For more information, please contact:

William F. Regine, MD, FACR, FASTRO, FACRO

Isadore and Fannie Schneider Foxman Chair and Distinguished Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology
Interim Chair, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, University of Maryland School of Medicine
President, University of Maryland Faculty Physicians, Inc.
Executive Director, Maryland Proton Treatment Center
wregine@som.umaryland.edu
410-328-2326

Kevin P. Kelly, J.D.

Chief Government Affairs Officer & Vice President
University of Maryland, Baltimore
kkelly@umaryland.edu

Prashant Raghavan, MBBS

Professor, Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine
Professor, Otorhinolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
Section Chief of Neuro Diagnostic Radiology
Modality Director
ACGME Neuro Diagnostic Fellowship Director
praghavan@som.umaryland.edu
410-328-3477

Jeanette Ortiz, Esq.

Director of Government Affairs
University of Maryland, Baltimore
jeanette.ortiz@umaryland.edu

² Compare Administrative Code of Virginia, 18VAC85-20-210 with Md. Code, Health Occ. § 14-319 and MD. CODE REGS 10.32.13.03.

³ Specifically, UMSOM and FPI request that the following requirements be removed from Maryland's conceded eminence pathway: publication of original results of clinical research as a first or last author, and development of a treatment modality, surgical technique, or other verified original contribution to the field of medicine. See Md. Code Health-Occ § 14-319 and its implementing regulations at MD. CODE REGS 10.32.13.03. Alternatively, creating a new university-specific licensure pathway similar to Virginia's would satisfy our needs.