



Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Health Facilities

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities

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SUPPORT

HB 1199 – Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians

March 10, 2025

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

HB1199 is the work product of the 2024 workgroup formed at the direction of the committee chair to study the possibility of creating an alternative, accelerated pathway for vetting and licensing qualified internationally trained physicians who have trained and practiced in other countries. Such a pathway would both help address Maryland's growing physician shortage and allow physicians who have relocated to our state work their trained profession. The bill allows the Maryland Board of Physicians to issue to internationally trained physicians who meet rigorous qualifications, a one-time 3-year license, as an intermediate step to full licensure and directs that the Board establish regulations creating such a pathway.

Maryland is not immune from the growing U.S. physician shortage crisis, as 24 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions contain federally designated primary care shortage areas. While the state has made efforts to increase residency placements and recruit new doctors, a significant and untapped resource remains: the many internationally trained physicians already residing in Maryland who cannot practice due to restrictive licensing policies.

HB1199 would allow granting of the license to physicians who trained and practiced in good standing for a minimum of five years in in countries which meet substantively equivalent medical training and practice standards.

- Have completed medical education and training programs equivalent to U.S. accredited programs.
- Have been licensed and practiced for a minimum of 5 years.
- Have maintained good standing in their country of licensure.
- Have successfully passed all required U.S. licensing examinations.
- Demonstrate English proficiency and moral character can contribute to Maryland's healthcare workforce.

This bill does not compromise patient safety or medical standards—it simply removes unnecessary barriers that prevent highly trained and skilled medical professionals from serving Maryland residents. By creating an expedited pathway by which repeating residency training is not required, the bill potentially opens residency positions for other medical school graduates to fill. Similar programs in other states have helped alleviate physician shortages and expand healthcare access without lowering standards of care.

Under HB1199, Maryland Board of Physicians would retain full authority to review past disciplinary or competency issues in determining whether a license should be issued and full disciplinary authority over the licensee to uphold medical and patient safety standards.

I urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri L. Hill", written over a white rectangular background.