

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG  
Legislative District 3  
Frederick County



Annapolis Office  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3575  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3575  
Karen.LewisYoung@senate.maryland.gov

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair  
Pensions Subcommittee

District Office  
253 East Church Street  
Frederick, MD 21701  
301-662-8520

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Chair Beidle  
The Honorable Vice Chair Hayes  
Finance Committee  
Senate of Maryland

February 10th, 2026

**SB380: Physicians - Licensing - Internationally Trained Physicians**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee,

Senate Bill 380: Physicians – Licensing – Internationally Trained Physicians addresses the growing physician shortage while ensuring that highly qualified, internationally trained physicians have a fair pathway to practice medicine in the state. This bill will allow the Maryland Board of Physicians to issue a time-limited license to internationally trained physicians who meet rigorous qualifications, expanding access to healthcare for communities in need.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the U.S. could face a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034<sup>1</sup>, with rural and underserved areas experiencing the most severe impacts. Maryland is not immune to this crisis. All 24 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions contain federally designated primary care shortage areas. Last fall, Prince George's County alone was found to have a shortage of about 1,050 physicians<sup>2</sup>. Across the State, there are fewer than 80 primary care providers for every 10,000 residents<sup>3</sup>.

Maryland has made efforts to increase residency placements and recruit new doctors. Yet a significant and untapped resource remains: the many internationally trained physicians already residing in Maryland who cannot practice due to restrictive licensing policies.

The proposed legislation ensures that internationally trained physicians who:

- Have completed accredited medical education and residency programs abroad;
- Have maintained good standing in their country of licensure;
- Have successfully passed all required U.S. licensing examinations; and

<sup>1</sup> AAMC. (2021, June 11). *AAMC Report Reinforces Mounting Physician Shortage*. AAMC.Org.

<sup>2</sup> WBFF Staff. (2026, February 2). *With the demand for physicians, many offer solutions*. Fox 45 News.

<sup>3</sup> Miller, H., & Cohn, M. (2023, March 27). *Why it's hard to find a doctor in Maryland right now*. The Baltimore Banner. Massachusetts

- Demonstrate English proficiency and moral character such that they 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 skilled physicians from serving Maryland residents. Similar programs in other states have helped alleviate physician shortages and expand healthcare access without lowering standards of care. As of the start of this month, 18 other states have enacted licensure pathways for internationally trained physicians, ranging from Massachusetts to Texas. Virginia passed similar legislation in 2024 and is considering additional licensure pathways again this year<sup>4</sup>.

By allowing internationally trained physicians a clear pathway to licensure, Maryland will strengthen its healthcare system and recognize and value the diverse medical expertise these professionals bring. The Maryland Board of Physicians retains full authority to review past disciplinary or competency issues to uphold medical standards and patient safety.

I urge a favorable report on this bill to ensure that Maryland takes a proactive approach to addressing physician shortages and improving healthcare access for all residents.

Sincerely,



Senator Karen Lewis Young

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<sup>4</sup> States with Enacted and Proposed Licensure Pathways for Internationally Trained Physicians. (2026, January 26). *FSMB*.