

1 AN ACT relating to a provisional license to practice medicine.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 311.530 TO 311.620 IS CREATED
4 TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) Notwithstanding any of the requirements for medical licensure in KRS 311.571,*
6 *an international medical graduate may apply for a provisional license that may*
7 *lead to a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in Kentucky.*

8 *(2) By January 1, 2026, the board shall promulgate administrative regulations in*
9 *accordance with KRS Chapter 13A that establish a provisional licensure pathway*
10 *for international medical graduates to obtain a full and unrestricted license to*
11 *practice medicine in Kentucky. The administrative regulations shall:*

12 *(a) Establish criteria for acceptable foreign medical schools that provide*
13 *medical education that is reasonably comparable to those of medical*
14 *schools in the United States from which applicants may be accepted;*

15 *(b) Require that the applicant have an offer of full-time employment as a*
16 *physician from a Kentucky health care provider and:*

17 *1. Maintain employment for at least two (2) consecutive years; and*

18 *2. Notify the board within five (5) business days of any change of*
19 *employer;*

20 *(c) Require that the applicant has:*

21 *1. An unencumbered license in a foreign country;*

22 *2. A license in good standing for the immediately preceding five (5)*
23 *years, without pending disciplinary action;*

24 *3. Actively practiced medicine for the entire five (5) year period*
25 *preceding his or her application;*

26 *4. Completed a residency or substantially similar postgraduate medical*
27 *residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council for*

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Graduate Medical Education;

5. Had his or her credentials evaluated and certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates; and

6. Passed the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates examinations, including the United States Medical Licensing Examination Steps 1 and 2 and the Occupational English Test, Medicine;

(d) Establish eligibility requirements for a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in Kentucky upon successfully completing a provisional licensure period, including:

1. Board assessment of each applicant on his or her merits;

2. A requirement that the applicant not have any disciplinary actions or investigations pending from his or her provisional licensure period;

3. Evidence of fulfillment of employment requirements during the provisional period; and

4. No evidence of engaging in unacceptable conduct under KRS 311.595 or 311.597; and

(e) 1. Establish a process to collect information to facilitate evaluation of the provisional license pathway to determine whether it is meeting the intended purpose. The information shall include but not be limited to:

a. The number of applicants;

b. The number of internationally trained physicians receiving provisional licensure under the pathway and the number denied provisional licensure under the pathway;

c. The number of individuals achieving full and unrestricted licensure;

d. The percentage of individuals that stay and practice in their

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specialty of training and in rural or underserved areas;

e. The number of complaints received and any disciplinary actions taken;

f. The practice setting and specialty of applicants;

g. The number who ultimately remain in the United States;

h. The number of individuals achieving specialty board certification; and

i. The costs to the board of operating an additional licensing pathway.

2. Not later than December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the board shall submit a report on its findings to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Health Services.