

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 601

5 By: Senator Hester
6 By: Representative L. Johnson
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO CREATE A PATHWAY FOR A GRADUATE OF A
10 FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL TO BE LICENSED IN THIS STATE
11 IF HE OR SHE IS OFFERED FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A
12 PHYSICIAN FROM A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER; AND FOR OTHER
13 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16
17 TO CREATE A PATHWAY FOR A GRADUATE OF A
18 FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL TO BE LICENSED IN
19 THIS STATE IF HE OR SHE IS OFFERED FULL-
20 TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A PHYSICIAN FROM A
21 HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-95-202, concerning the definitions used
26 in the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et
27 seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq., is amended to add an additional subdivision to
28 read as follows:

29 (4) "Healthcare provider" means a healthcare professional,
30 healthcare facility, or entity licensed or certified to provide healthcare
31 services in this state as recognized by the Arkansas State Medical Board.
32

33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-95-403(b)(3)(A)(iii), concerning the
34 qualifications for a license to practice medicine in this state, is amended
35 to read as follows:

36 (iii)(a) A foreign medical school whose entrance



1 requirements and course of instruction have been approved by the ~~Arkansas~~
 2 ~~State Medical Board~~ Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates and
 3 commits to a two-year period that does not include post-graduate clinical
 4 training to practice in an underserved or health professional shortage area
 5 in this state.

6 (b) ~~He~~ Except as provided in subdivision
 7 (b)(3)(A)(iii)(c) of this section, he or she ~~must~~ shall also have:

8 (1) Served three (3) years as an intern,
 9 resident, or fellow, or a combination thereof, in an accredited postgraduate
 10 medical education program in the United States;

11 (2) Served three (3) years as an intern
 12 or resident in a postgraduate medical education program outside the United
 13 States, completed all steps of the United States Medical Licensing
 14 Examination, obtained Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
 15 certification, and either completed one (1) year or more of fellowship
 16 training accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical
 17 Education in the United States or received American Board of Medical
 18 Specialties certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties; or

19 (3) Completed one (1) year as an intern
 20 or resident in an accredited postgraduate medical education program in the
 21 United States and be currently enrolled in an accredited postgraduate medical
 22 program in Arkansas.

23 (c) If he or she has been offered full-time
 24 employment as a physician from a healthcare provider that operates in this
 25 state, he or she shall:

26 (1) Hold an active, unencumbered license
 27 to practice medicine in a foreign county;

28 (2) Have actively practiced medicine
 29 during the four-year period preceding the date of an application under this
 30 section;

31 (3) Have the Educational Commission for
 32 Foreign Medical Graduates evaluate his or her medical credentials;

33 (4) Hold an active, valid certificate
 34 issued by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates; and

35 (5) Pass the examination used by the
 36 Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates.

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SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-95-403, concerning the qualifications for a license to practice medicine in this state, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(c) An applicant who is licensed under subdivision (b)(3)(A)(iii)(c) of this section shall:

(1) Maintain his or her employment with the original healthcare provider or another healthcare provider that operates in this state for at least two (2) consecutive years after licensure; and

(2) Notify the Arkansas State Medical Board within five (5) business days after any change of employer.