

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1198

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE STINNETT.

1781H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 334, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the licensure of international physicians, with a delayed effective date.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 334, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 334.042, to read as follows:

334.042. 1. The provisions of this section shall be known and may be cited as the "Expanding Physician Access Act of 2025".

2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Health care provider", any individual, entity, corporation, person, or organization, whether for profit or nonprofit, that furnishes, bills, or is paid for health care procedures or service deliveries in the normal course of business. The term "health care provider" includes, but is not limited to, health systems, hospitals, hospital-based facilities, federally qualified health centers, freestanding emergency facilities, and urgent care clinics;

(2) "International medical program", any medical school, residency program, medical internship program, or entity that provides prospective physicians with a medical education or training that:

(a) Meets eligibility requirements established by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) for its graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG certification and examination; or

(b) Is substantially similar to the medical education or training required by the board for licensure as a physician in this state;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 **(3) "International physician", any individual who:**

19 **(a) Has been granted a medical doctorate or substantially similar degree by a**
20 **domestic or international medical program of good standing;**

21 **(b) Has been in good standing with the medical licensing or regulatory**
22 **institution of the individual's licensing country within the previous five years and does**
23 **not have any pending discipline before such licensing or regulatory institution;**

24 **(c) Has completed a residency or substantially similar postgraduate medical**
25 **training program or has practiced as a medical professional performing the duties of a**
26 **physician in the individual's licensing country for at least seven years after the**
27 **completion of the degree described in paragraph (a) of this subdivision;**

28 **(d) Has practiced medicine as a fully licensed or otherwise authorized physician**
29 **in the individual's licensing country for at least five years after the completion of**
30 **residency training or training or practice equivalent to residency training under**
31 **paragraph (c) of this subdivision;**

32 **(e) Has obtained certification by the Educational Commission for Foreign**
33 **Medical Graduates, a successor organization, or another evaluation entity approved by**
34 **the board;**

35 **(f) Has passed Steps 1, 2, and 3 of the United States Medical Licensing**
36 **Examination; and**

37 **(g) Possesses basic fluency in the English language;**

38 **(4) "Physician", any individual who has obtained a medical doctorate or**
39 **substantially similar degree and is licensed to practice medicine inside or outside the**
40 **United States;**

41 **(5) "Sponsoring health care provider", a health care provider who employs an**
42 **international physician after making an offer of employment that qualifies the**
43 **international physician for provisional licensure under this section.**

44 **3. The board shall grant a provisional license to practice medicine in this state to**
45 **any international physician with an offer for employment as a physician from any**
46 **health care provider that operates in this state as long as the international physician is**
47 **eligible to obtain a federal immigration status that allows him or her to practice as a**
48 **physician in the United States.**

49 **4. The board may revoke a provisional license granted under this section if the**
50 **international physician is not employed by a health care provider that operates in this**
51 **state during the period of provisional licensure.**

52 **5. (1) The board may also revoke a provisional license granted under this**
53 **section based on clear and convincing evidence that medical services provided by the**
54 **licensee have violated the state's medical safety, competency, or conduct standards.**

55 **(2) A licensee may appeal the revocation of his or her provisional license under**
56 **this subsection to a state court of competent jurisdiction over the board within one**
57 **hundred twenty days of the revocation of the provisional license. The court shall**
58 **reinstate the provisional license if it finds that the board's actions did not meet the**
59 **standards in subdivision (1) of this subsection.**

60 **6. The board shall automatically convert a provisional license described in this**
61 **section into a full license to practice medicine in this state after three years of active**
62 **practice in this state by the licensee, provided that the licensee remains in good standing**
63 **with the board and is not under investigation by the board.**

64 **7. Nothing in this section requires the board to license, on a provisional or full**
65 **basis, an international physician without:**

- 66 **(1) Evidence of similar training;**
- 67 **(2) Evidence of satisfactory passage of examinations;**
- 68 **(3) Satisfactory results of a background investigation;**
- 69 **(4) Completion of an application for licensure; and**
- 70 **(5) Payment of all required fees.**

71 **8. International physicians who are required to obtain federal work**
72 **authorization before commencing any work for the sponsoring health care provider**
73 **shall be eligible to apply for a provisional license prior to receiving federal work**
74 **authorization but shall not commence work without the necessary work authorization.**

75 **9. International physicians who become fully licensed under subsection 6 of this**
76 **section shall not be required to maintain employment with the sponsoring health care**
77 **provider at the conclusion of the period of provisional licensure.**

 Section B. The enactment of section 334.042 of this act shall become effective on
2 January 1, 2026.

✓