

STATE OF NEW YORK

7319

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing an internationally trained physician licensure pathway program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that New York
2 state is experiencing a critical shortage of physicians, particularly in
3 primary care and in underserved and rural communities. This shortage
4 limits access to essential healthcare services, exacerbates health
5 disparities, and places an increasing burden on the existing healthcare
6 workforce. At the same time, New York is home to thousands of interna-
7 tionally trained physicians who possess the education, skills, and expe-
8 rience necessary to provide high-quality medical care. However,
9 outdated, and restrictive licensing requirements often prevent these
10 highly qualified professionals from practicing medicine, resulting in
11 significant "brain waste" where capable medical professionals are under-
12 employed or forced to leave the healthcare field altogether. It is the
13 intent of this legislature to address both the physician shortage and
14 the underutilization of internationally trained medical professionals by
15 establishing a streamlined pathway to licensure. This initiative will
16 allow qualified, foreign-trained physicians to contribute to the health-
17 care system through supervised practice in designated shortage areas,
18 ultimately leading to full licensure. By enacting this legislation, New
19 York will expand access to healthcare, strengthen the medical workforce,
20 and ensure that skilled immigrant professionals can fully contribute to
21 the well-being of our communities.

22 § 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 6525-a to
23 read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 § 6525-a. Internationally trained physician licensure pathway program.
2 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following
3 meanings:

4 (a) "Internationally trained physician" shall mean a physician who is
5 licensed to practice medicine in another country meeting standards
6 satisfactory to the state board for medicine and in accordance with the
7 commissioner's regulations.

8 (b) "Participating healthcare facility" means federally qualified
9 health centers, community health centers, and hospitals or healthcare
10 facilities located in physician shortage areas, as approved by the state
11 board for medicine.

12 2. Permits limited as to eligibility, practice and duration, shall be
13 issued by the department to eligible applicants, as follows:

14 (a) An internationally trained physician shall be eligible for a
15 limited permit pursuant to this subdivision.

16 (b) A permittee shall be authorized to practice medicine only under
17 the supervision of a licensed physician and only in a participating
18 healthcare facility.

19 (c) A limited permit shall be valid for two years, during which the
20 performance of the permittee is mentored, assessed, and evaluated by the
21 supervising licensed physician.

22 3. Upon successful completion of the supervised practice period pursu-
23 ant to paragraph (c) of subdivision two of this section, an interna-
24 tionally trained physician shall be granted by the department a two-year
25 restricted license allowing independent practice in primary care,
26 psychiatry, or other specialties approved by the state board for medi-
27 cine, within physician shortage areas as designated by the state board
28 for medicine.

29 4. Following two years of practice with a restricted license granted
30 pursuant to subdivision three of this section, an internationally
31 trained physician shall be eligible to be licensed pursuant to section
32 sixty-five hundred twenty-four of this article, notwithstanding any
33 provision of law, rule or regulation to the contrary.

34 5. The state board for medicine, in consultation with the department,
35 and the department of health, shall promulgate all rules and regulations
36 necessary for the implementation of this section, which shall at a mini-
37 mum include:

38 (a) program standards for participating healthcare facilities to
39 mentor, assess, and evaluate internationally trained physicians working
40 under limited permits issued pursuant to subdivision two of this
41 section;

42 (b) requirements for participating healthcare facilities to establish
43 full-time employment relationships with the internationally trained
44 physicians working under limited permits issued pursuant to subdivision
45 two of this section;

46 (c) requirements for participating healthcare facilities to submit
47 evidence of an internationally trained physician's eligibility and
48 comprehensive assessments necessary for the department to grant a
49 restricted license pursuant to subdivision three of this section; and

50 (d) regulations and guidance to implement the licensure pathway estab-
51 lished pursuant to this section, ensuring clarity in the application
52 process, supervision requirements, and criteria for progression to full
53 licensure.

54 6. The state board for medicine shall submit a report annually on
55 January fifth to the governor and the legislature on the status of the
56 licensure pathway established pursuant to this section, including but

1 not limited to, the number of internationally trained physicians who are
2 participating in the program established in this section, their special-
3 ty and the region they are serving.

4 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
5 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
6 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
7 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
8 completed on or before such effective date.