STATE OF NEW YORK

7840

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 9, 2025

Introduced by Sen. JACKSON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed 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:

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 However, outdated, and restrictive licensing requirements often prevent these highly qualified professionals from practicing medicine, resulting in significant "brain waste"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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Upon successful completion of the supervised practice period pursuant to paragraph (c) of subdivision two of this section, an internationally trained physician shall be granted by the department a two-year restricted license allowing independent practice in primary care, psychiatry, or other specialties approved by the state board for medicine, within physician shortage areas as designated by the state board for medicine.

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

5. The state board for medicine, in consultation with the department, and the department of health, shall promulgate all rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this section, which shall at a minimum include:

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

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

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

(d) regulations and guidance to implement the licensure pathway established pursuant to this section, ensuring clarity in the application process, supervision requirements, and criteria for progression to full licensure.

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

not limited to, the number of internationally trained physicians who are participating in the program established in this section, their specialty and the region they are serving.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.