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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to licensure of internationally
 trained physicians; amending s. 458.311, F.S.;
 establishing licensure requirements for certain
 foreign-trained physicians; authorizing the Board of
 Medicine to certify an applicant for licensure with
 restrictions, limitations, or conditions on certain
 foreign-trained physicians; creating s. 458.3126,
 F.S.; creating a limited license for general medical
 practice for foreign-trained physicians who meet
 specified requirements; excluding practice in a
 medical specialty; providing for future repeal;
 providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraphs (f) and (h) of subsection (1) and
 subsection (7) of section 458.311, Florida Statutes, are amended
 to read:

458.311 Licensure by examination; requirements; fees.—

(1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a physician, who
 does not hold a valid license in any state, shall apply to the
 department on forms furnished by the department. The department
 shall license each applicant who the board certifies:

(f) Meets one of the following medical education and

26 | postgraduate training requirements:

27 | 1.a. Is a graduate of an allopathic medical school or
28 | allopathic college recognized and approved by an accrediting
29 | agency recognized by the United States Office of Education or is
30 | a graduate of an allopathic medical school or allopathic college
31 | within a territorial jurisdiction of the United States
32 | recognized by the accrediting agency of the governmental body of
33 | that jurisdiction;

34 | b. If the language of instruction of the medical school is
35 | other than English, has demonstrated competency in English
36 | through presentation of a satisfactory grade on the Test of
37 | English as a Foreign Language ~~Test of Spoken English~~ of the
38 | Educational Testing Service or a similar test approved by rule
39 | of the board; and

40 | c. Has completed an approved residency of at least 1 year.

41 | 2.a. Is a graduate of an allopathic foreign medical school
42 | registered with the World Health Organization and certified
43 | pursuant to s. 458.314 as having met the standards required to
44 | accredit medical schools in the United States or reasonably
45 | comparable standards;

46 | b. If the language of instruction of the foreign medical
47 | school is other than English, has demonstrated competency in
48 | English through presentation of the Educational Commission for
49 | Foreign Medical Graduates English proficiency certificate or by
50 | a satisfactory grade on the Test of English as a Foreign

51 ~~Language Test of Spoken English~~ of the Educational Testing
52 Service or a similar test approved by rule of the board; and
53 c. Has completed an approved residency of at least 1 year.
54 3.a. Is a graduate of an allopathic foreign medical school
55 which has not been certified pursuant to s. 458.314;
56 b. Has had his or her medical credentials evaluated by the
57 Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, holds an
58 active, valid certificate issued by that commission, and has
59 passed the examination utilized by that commission; and
60 c. Has completed an approved residency of at least 1 year;
61 however, after October 1, 1992, the applicant shall have
62 completed an approved residency or fellowship of at least 2
63 years in one specialty area. However, to be acceptable, the
64 fellowship experience and training must be counted toward
65 regular or subspecialty certification by a board recognized and
66 certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties.
67 4.a. Is a graduate of an allopathic foreign medical school
68 that is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools
69 produced by the World Federation for Medical Education and the
70 Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education
71 and Research, in collaboration with the World Health
72 Organization, that is accredited by an accrediting agency
73 recognized by the appropriate governmental body in the foreign
74 jurisdiction, but which has not been certified pursuant to s.
75 458.314;

76 b. If the language of instruction of the foreign medical
77 school is other than English, has demonstrated competency in
78 English through presentation of a satisfactory grade on the Test
79 of English as a Foreign Language of the Educational Testing
80 Service or a similar test approved by rule of the board;

81 c. Has completed an approved residency or fellowship of at
82 least 1 year in one specialty area. However, to be acceptable,
83 the fellowship experience and training must be counted toward
84 regular or subspecialty certification by a board recognized and
85 certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties; and

86 d. Has held an active physician license and practiced
87 medicine in a foreign jurisdiction for at least 5 years
88 immediately preceding the application for licensure under this
89 section.

90 (h) Has obtained a passing score, as established by rule
91 of the board, on the licensure examination of the United States
92 Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE); or a combination of the
93 United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), the
94 examination of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the
95 United States, Inc. (FLEX), or the examination of the National
96 Board of Medical Examiners up to the year 2000; or for the
97 purpose of examination of any applicant who was licensed on the
98 basis of a state board examination and who is currently licensed
99 in at least one other jurisdiction of the United States or
100 Canada, and who has practiced pursuant to such licensure for a

101 period of at least 10 years, use of the Special Purpose
102 Examination of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the
103 United States (SPEX) upon receipt of a passing score as
104 established by rule of the board. An applicant meeting the
105 medical education and postgraduate training requirements in
106 subparagraph (f)4. may meet the examination requirement of this
107 paragraph by obtaining a passing score on an examination
108 determined by the board to be substantially equivalent to or
109 more stringent than the United States Medical Licensing
110 Examination (USMLE). However, for the purpose of examination of
111 any applicant who was licensed on the basis of a state board
112 examination prior to 1974, who is currently licensed in at least
113 three other jurisdictions of the United States or Canada, and
114 who has practiced pursuant to such licensure for a period of at
115 least 20 years, this paragraph does not apply.

116 (7) Upon certification by the board, the department shall
117 impose conditions, limitations, or restrictions on a license if
118 the applicant is on probation in another jurisdiction for an act
119 that ~~which~~ would constitute a violation of this chapter. The
120 board may certify an applicant for licensure who has met the
121 medical education and postgraduate training requirements under
122 subparagraph (1)(f)4. and all other licensure requirements with
123 a condition, limitation, or restriction, including, but not
124 limited to, a probationary period of practice, a scope of
125 practice limitation, or a supervision requirement, which shall

126 be imposed by the department for a duration specified by the
127 board.

128 Section 2. Section 458.3126, Florida Statutes, is created
129 to read:

130 458.3126 Limited license for general practice for foreign-
131 trained physicians; requirements.—

132 (1) A person may apply for a limited license for general
133 practice if he or she:

134 (a) Has been a resident of this state for at least 3 years
135 at the time of application.

136 (b) Is a graduate of an allopathic foreign medical school
137 that:

138 1. Is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools
139 produced by the World Federation for Medical Education and the
140 Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education
141 and Research, in collaboration with the World Health
142 Organization.

143 2. Has been evaluated by the National Committee on Foreign
144 Medical Education and Accreditation.

145 3. Participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct
146 Student Loan Program.

147 (c) Has demonstrated competency in English through
148 presentation of a satisfactory grade on the Test of English as a
149 Foreign Language of the Educational Testing Service or a similar
150 test approved by rule of the board if he or she attended a

151 medical school in which the language of instruction is not
152 English.

153 (d) Has obtained translation of his or her medical degree
154 by an entity approved by the board, if necessary.

155 (e) If not qualified for admission to a residency program
156 in the United States, has:

157 1. Held an active physician license in a foreign
158 jurisdiction as certified by the appropriate physician licensing
159 agency in such jurisdiction.

160 2. Completed 5 or more years of practice as a licensed
161 physician in the foreign jurisdiction.

162 (f) Has completed one of the following:

163 1. Nine hundred hours in an accredited medical school
164 residency program in this state that is approved by the board
165 and similar in curriculum to the residency requirement in
166 458.311(1)(f)2.c.;

167 2. A passing score on Steps I, II, and III of the United
168 States Medical Licensing Examination; or

169 3. Active licensure for at least 3 years in the state as
170 an advanced registered nurse practitioner, physician assistant,
171 or house physician.

172 (g) Has practiced for at least 3 years under the
173 supervision of a board-certified physician in internal medicine,
174 family medicine, pediatrics, or a faculty member of a medical
175 school or a statutorily accredited medical school program. Such

176 | practice requirement may be served concurrently with the service
177 | requirement in paragraph (h).

178 | (h) Has completed 1 year of employment, service, or
179 | volunteer work in a federally qualified health center, area of
180 | critical need, safety net hospital, rural hospital, or otherwise
181 | underserved area or population, which may be served concurrently
182 | with the practice requirement in paragraph (f).

183 | (2) A limited license for general practice does not
184 | include the practice of any medical specialty.

185 | (3) This section is repealed effective July 1, 2023,
186 | unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

187 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.