

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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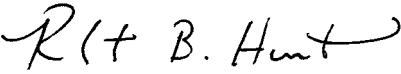
H.P. 70

House of Representatives, January 8, 2025

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission  
Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Establish  
a Sponsorship Program for Internationally Trained Physicians**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.  
Cosponsored by Representative: CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12103-B** is enacted to read:

3 **§12103-B. International Medical Graduates Sponsorship Program**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Internationally trained physician" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section  
7 3271, subsection 8, paragraph A, subparagraph (1).

8 B. "Physician shortage area" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 3271,  
9 subsection 8, paragraph A, subparagraph (4).

10 C. "Sponsoring institution" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 3271,  
11 subsection 8, paragraph A, subparagraph (5).

12 **2. Program established.** The International Medical Graduates Sponsorship Program,  
13 referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the authority to make  
14 grants to sponsoring institutions to provide an alternative license pathway for  
15 internationally trained physicians in this State and to expand the number of physicians  
16 practicing in physician shortage areas. The authority shall administer the program in  
17 accordance with the requirements of this section.

18 **3. Administration.** Under the program, the authority shall use available funding to  
19 establish up to a total of 10 positions annually at one or more sponsoring institutions for  
20 the employment and training of internationally trained physicians issued a temporary  
21 educational license to practice medicine pursuant to Title 32, section 3271, subsection 8,  
22 paragraph B. The authority shall enter into an agreement with each sponsoring institution  
23 that seeks to participate in the program.

24 **4. Application.** An internationally trained physician shall apply directly to a rural  
25 graduate medical education collaborative in the State for screening and placement by using  
26 a process and qualifying criteria developed by a rural graduate medical education  
27 collaborative in the State.

28 **5. Fund created.** A nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving fund under the jurisdiction  
29 of the authority, known as the International Medical Graduates Sponsorship Program Fund  
30 and referred to in this subsection as "the fund," is created to carry out the purposes of this  
31 section. Any unexpended balance in the fund carries over for continued use under this  
32 section. The authority may receive, invest and expend on behalf of the fund money from  
33 gifts, grants, bequests and donations or other sources in addition to money appropriated or  
34 allocated by the State. Money in the fund must be invested by the authority, as provided  
35 by law, with the earned income to be added to the fund. Money received by the authority  
36 on behalf of the fund must be used for reasonable administrative expenses and for the  
37 purposes of this section.

38 **6. Rules.** The authority may adopt rules as necessary to implement this section. Rules  
39 adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter  
40 375, subchapter 2-A.

41 **Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §3271, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

1           **8. Alternative license pathway for internationally trained physicians.**

2           Notwithstanding any other requirements of this chapter, the board shall provide an  
3           alternative license pathway for an internationally trained physician who has been licensed  
4           or otherwise authorized to practice medicine in a country other than the United States and  
5           who meets the requirements of this subsection to apply for and obtain a full and unrestricted  
6           license to practice medicine in this State.

7           A. For the purposes of this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
8           following terms have the following meanings.

9                   (1) "Internationally trained physician" means a physician who has received a  
10                   degree of doctor of medicine or its equivalent from a legally chartered medical  
11                   school outside the United States recognized by the World Health Organization or  
12                   its successor organization; who has been licensed or otherwise authorized to  
13                   practice medicine in a country other than the United States; and who has practiced  
14                   medicine for at least one year.

15                   (2) "Medical licensing examination" means the United States Medical Licensing  
16                   Examination or its successor examination.

17                   (3) "Participating health care facility" means a health care facility approved by the  
18                   board that provides a program for internationally trained physicians according to  
19                   criteria developed or approved by the board and that provides medical care in a  
20                   physician shortage area.

21                   (4) "Physician shortage area" means a geographic region or population in the State  
22                   experiencing a shortage of physicians relative to population and need, as  
23                   determined by the board.

24                   (5) "Sponsoring institution" means any of the 4 hospitals in this State accredited  
25                   by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education on January 1, 2024.

26           B. An internationally trained physician may apply for a temporary educational license  
27           to practice medicine for a renewable 2-year term if a sponsoring institution and the  
28           internationally trained physician submit evidence acceptable to the board that the  
29           internationally trained physician:

30                   (1) Has lived in this State for at least 12 months;

31                   (2) Has a valid certificate issued by the Educational Commission for Foreign  
32                   Medical Graduates or its successor organization or other credential evaluation  
33                   service approved by the board, except that the board may waive such certification  
34                   at its discretion when the internationally trained physician is unable to obtain the  
35                   required documentation;

36                   (3) Has achieved a passing score on both Step 1 and on Step 2 CK of the medical  
37                   licensing examination;

38                   (4) Has entered into an agreement with the sponsoring institution providing that a  
39                   participating health care facility shall develop, assess and evaluate the  
40                   internationally trained applicant's familiarity with nonclinical skills and standards  
41                   appropriate for the practice of medicine in the State, according to assessment and  
42                   evaluation criteria developed or approved by the board;

