

## (EMERGENCY) (New Draft of H.P. 314, L.D. 413) (New Title) FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

## Legislative Document

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NO. 1609

H.P. 1180 Reported by Representative ALLEN from the Committee on Business Legislation and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk Original bill sponsored by Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake. Cosponsored by President PRAY of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Amend the Postgraduate Residency Requirements for Certain Physicians.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Maine requires 2 years of postgraduate training for registration with the Board of Registration in Medicine; and

Whereas, most states only require one year of postgraduate training; and

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Whereas, this requirement is currently preventing doctors from practicing medicine in this State; and 1 2

3 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of 4 5 the Constitution of Maine and require the following 6 legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 7 8 therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as 9 10 follows:

11 32 MRSA §3279, sub-§5, as repealed and replaced 12 . by PL 1983, c. 741, §8, is amended to read:

5. Contract students. Any applicant who is qualified under section 3271, subsection 1, who received his medical education as a contract student as provided in Title 20-A, chapter 421, and who agrees to practice in a primary care or other specialized area as defined in Title 20-A, section 11803, subsection 2, or an underserved area as defined in Title 20-A, section 11802, shall be deemed to have completed the postgraduate training requirements of section 3271, subsection 2, upon satisfactory completion of at least 12 months in a graduate educational program approved as specified in section 3271. The board may make the reregistration of an individual for 4 years after his licensure under this subsection contingent on his continuing to practice in an underserved area.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited 29 in 'the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-30 31 proved.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

Since 1984, 2 years of postgraduate education has 33 -34 been required for a physician to be licensed in 35 Maine. The original bill sought to reduce this to 36 one year for all physicians.

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The new draft reduces the 2-year requirements to only for doctors who have gone through the one year State's program for postgraduate education in the field of medicine and who return to practice in an underserved area of Maine. The state contracts with specific medical schools for 23 medical education spaces which are filled by students, of whom approximately 60% return to a type or area of practice in Maine each year which would qualify them for debt forgiveness. In the past forgiveness was based on 11 % the specialty in which the doctor was to practice. Beginning with the 1981 contract students, service in an underserved speciality or geographic area is to be the basis for forgiveness.

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15 This new draft has the purpose of encouraging 16 qualified physicians to practice in underserved medi-17 specialty or geographic areas of the State, of cal 18 providing further encouragement for state contract students to return to the State and of allowing stu-19 20 dents who entered the contract programs prior to 1984 21 to operate under the same licensing standards as were 22 in effect at the time of their original contract.

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