

Legislative Analysis



TEMPORARY AND LIMITED MEDICAL LICENSES

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4896 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Jason Woolford

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

House Bill 4925 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Phil Green

Committee: Health Policy
Complete to 10-21-25

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4925 would create a new pathway for certain internationally educated physicians to practice medicine in Michigan by establishing a temporary license and a limited license, which can lead to full licensure, subject to the conditions and requirements described below.

Temporary license

The bill would authorize the Board of Medicine to grant a temporary license to practice medicine to an applicant who shows that they meet all of the following:

- They have completed the requirements for a degree in medicine at a medical school outside the United States or Canada that is recognized by the World Health Organization (or an equivalent organization as determined by the board).
- They were was authorized to practice medicine in a country other than the United States or Canada and practiced there for at least one year.
- They have a certification issued by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (or an equivalent certification as determined by the board).¹
- They have successfully completed steps 1 and 2 of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (or an equivalent examination as determined by the board).
- They have entered into an agreement with a *participating facility* for full-time employment under the supervision of a fully licensed physician. This agreement would have to require the participating facility to assess and evaluate the applicant's nonclinical skills (and other skills the board considers appropriate) according to criteria developed or approved by the board.
- They meet any other requirement established by the board.

Participating facility would mean a federally qualified health center, a hospital licensed under Public Health Code, or another facility approved by the Board of Medicine.

A temporary license would be valid for two years and could be renewed only once.

An applicant would have to obtain their temporary license before they begin their supervised employment experience.

¹ The board could waive this requirement if the applicant shows that they are unable to obtain documentation from a noncooperating country.

Limited license

The Board of Medicine could grant a limited license to practice medicine to an applicant who holds a temporary license and shows that they meet all of the following:

- They have held the temporary license for two years.
- They have successfully completed step 3 of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination (or an equivalent examination as determined by the board).
- They have the appropriate nonclinical skills and other skills, based on a participating facility's assessment and evaluation of the applicant as described above.

A limited license would be valid for two years and could be renewed only once.

An individual granted a limited license could practice medicine without the supervision of a fully licensed physician, but they would have to confine their practice to a medically underserved area of Michigan designated by the board.

Full licensure

Finally, the bill would authorize the Board of Medicine to grant a full license to practice medicine to an applicant who has completed the requirements for a degree in medicine at a medical school outside the United States or Canada and who shows that they have safely and competently practiced medicine under the limited license described above for at least two years before applying.

The bill also would retain current provisions that allow the board to grant a full license to practice medicine to an applicant who has completed the requirements for a degree in medicine at a medical school outside the United States or Canada and who shows that they meet all of the following:

- They have engaged in the practice of medicine for at least 10 years after completing the requirements for a degree in medicine.
- They have completed at least three years of postgraduate clinical training in an institution that has an affiliation with a medical school listed in a directory of medical schools published by the World Health Organization as approved by the board.
- They have achieved a score determined by the board to be a passing score on an initial medical licensure examination approved by the board.
- They have safely and competently practiced medicine under a clinical academic limited license² granted by the board under the code for one or more academic institutions located in Michigan for at least the two years immediately preceding the date of their application, during which time they spent at least 800 hours a year in the observation and treatment of patients.

MCL 333.17012 and 333.17031 and proposed MCL 333.17012a

House Bill 4896 would amend the Public Health Code to update citation references to sections that would be renumbered by House Bill 4925.

MCL 333.17001 and 333.17011

² A clinical academic limited license can be issued under the code to an individual who practices the applicable health profession only as part of an academic institution and only in connection with their employment or other contractual relationship with that academic institution. See also <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=mcl-333-17030>

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4925 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). The bill would allow the department to grant temporary medical licenses to international medical school graduates who meet certain requirements as specified in the bill. LARA would likely experience an increase in license fee revenue, though the amount would depend on the number of temporary licenses issued. The department would also incur costs associated with the implementation of the new license type; LARA estimates that \$20,000 in IT costs would be required.

House Bill 4896 would have no fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

Legislative Analyst: Leah R. Doemer
Fiscal Analyst: Una Jakupovic

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.