

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1658

By: Representative Boyd

By: Senator Hickey

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CITIZENSHIP OR LEGAL RESIDENCY FOR
LICENSURE AS AN OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN IN THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE CITIZENSHIP OR LEGAL RESIDENCY
FOR LICENSURE AS AN OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN
IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND TO DECLARE
AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-91-101(a), concerning the licensing requirements of an osteopathic physician, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The Arkansas State Medical Board shall accept for licensure by examination any person who:

- (1) Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
- (2) Is a citizen or a legal resident of the United States;
- (3) Is of good moral character;
- (4) Has not been found guilty of acts constituting

unprofessional conduct as defined in the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, § 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq.;

(5) Is a graduate of an osteopathic college of medicine whose course of study has been recognized by the Department of Education of the American Osteopathic Association; and



(6) Has completed a one-year internship in a hospital approved by the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the State of Arkansas seeks to license more physicians to serve patients within the state, especially in primary care; that osteopathic physicians can aid in providing needed health care throughout the state; that two (2) osteopathic schools in Arkansas will have their first classes graduating in spring of 2019; that without permitting the status of legal residency to be a requirement to gain licensure as well as citizenship, the number of graduates of these schools who can remain in Arkansas to practice will be limited and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that graduates of osteopathic schools are able to obtain osteopathic licensure when they complete their education in the spring of 2019 and forthcoming graduates of osteopathic schools and to create a greater availability of osteopathic physicians for the practice of osteopathic medicine in this state to improve the health of the citizens of the State of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 3/29/19