

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 274

By: Senator Bledsoe

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ADD FELLOWSHIP AS A METHOD FOR A FOREIGN GRADUATE TO OBTAIN A LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ADD FELLOWSHIP AS A METHOD FOR A FOREIGN GRADUATE TO OBTAIN A LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-95-403(b)(3)(A)(iii), concerning the application and qualifications for a license to practice medicine, is amended to read as follows:

(iii)(a) A foreign medical school whose entrance requirements and course of instruction have been approved by the Arkansas State Medical Board.

(b) He or she must also have:

(1) Served three (3) years as an intern, ~~or resident, fellow, or a combination thereof~~ in an accredited postgraduate medical education program in the United States;

(2) Served three (3) years as an intern or resident in a postgraduate medical education program outside the United States, completed all steps of the United States Medical Licensing Examination, obtained Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates certification, and either completed one (1) year or more of fellowship



training accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in the United States, ~~and~~ or received American Board of Medical Specialties certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties; or

(3) Completed one (1) year as an intern or resident in an accredited postgraduate medical education program in the United States and be currently enrolled in an accredited postgraduate medical program in Arkansas.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that in this state the granting of medical licensure to foreign medical graduates is being delayed due to foreign medical graduates having a medical fellowship instead of a medical internship or residency; that a medical fellowship is a period of medical training similar to an internship or residency; that this act would authorize the Arkansas State Medical Board to accept and license foreign medical graduates with fellowships without unnecessary delay; that there is a shortage of physicians in certain areas of the State of Arkansas and that the passage of this act will make more physicians available for practice in the State of Arkansas, which is highly desirable for the health care of the citizens of the State of Arkansas; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that graduates of foreign medical schools who have medical fellowships are able to obtain medical licensure when they complete their medical fellowships in the spring of 2019 and to make more physician available for the practice of 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.