

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 274

4
5 By: Senator Bledsoe

For An Act To Be Entitled

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7
8 AN ACT TO ADD FELLOWSHIP AS A METHOD FOR A FOREIGN
9 GRADUATE TO OBTAIN A LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE; TO
10 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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

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

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

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

28 (b) He or she must also have:

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

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



1 training accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical
 2 Education in the United States, ~~and~~ or received American Board of Medical
 3 Specialties certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties; or
 4 (3) Completed one (1) year as an intern
 5 or resident in an accredited postgraduate medical education program in the
 6 United States and be currently enrolled in an accredited postgraduate medical
 7 program in Arkansas.

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 9 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 10 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that in this state the granting of
 11 medical licensure to foreign medical graduates is being delayed due to
 12 foreign medical graduates having a medical fellowship instead of a medical
 13 internship or residency; that a medical fellowship is a period of medical
 14 training similar to an internship or residency; that this act would authorize
 15 the Arkansas State Medical Board to accept and license foreign medical
 16 graduates with fellowships without unnecessary delay; that there is a
 17 shortage of physicians in certain areas of the State of Arkansas and that the
 18 passage of this act will make more physicians available for practice in the
 19 State of Arkansas, which is highly desirable for the health care of the
 20 citizens of the State of Arkansas; and that this act is immediately necessary
 21 to ensure that graduates of foreign medical schools who have medical
 22 fellowships are able to obtain medical licensure when they complete their
 23 medical fellowships in the spring of 2019 and to make more physician
 24 available for the practice of medicine in this state to improve the health of
 25 the citizens of the State of Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to
 26 exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the
 27 public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

- 28 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- 29 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
 30 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
 31 bill; or
- 32 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 33 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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 35 APPROVED: 3/1/19
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