

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1129**

Chapter 204, Laws of 2021

67th Legislature  
2021 Regular Session

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES—LIMITED LICENSURE

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 25, 2021

Passed by the House April 13, 2021  
Yeas 93 Nays 5

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 10, 2021  
Yeas 33 Nays 15

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Approved May 10, 2021 3:00 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1129** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 10, 2021

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1129**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2021 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      67th Legislature                      2021 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Valdez, Stonier, Ortiz-Self, Goodman, Cody, Santos, and Macri)

READ FIRST TIME 01/25/21.

1            AN ACT Relating to the licensure of international medical  
2 graduates; and amending RCW 18.71.095.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.71.095 and 2020 c 325 s 5 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            The commission may, without examination, issue a limited license  
7 to persons who possess the qualifications set forth herein:

8            (1) The commission may, upon the written request of the secretary  
9 of the department of social and health services, the secretary of  
10 children, youth, and families, or the secretary of corrections, issue  
11 a limited license to practice medicine in this state to persons who  
12 have been accepted for employment by the department of social and  
13 health services, the department of children, youth, and families, or  
14 the department of corrections as physicians; who are licensed to  
15 practice medicine in another state of the United States or in the  
16 country of Canada or any province or territory thereof; and who meet  
17 all of the qualifications for licensure set forth in RCW 18.71.050.

18            Such license shall permit the holder thereof to practice medicine  
19 only in connection with patients, residents, or inmates of the state  
20 institutions under the control and supervision of the secretary of

1 the department of social and health services, the department of  
2 children, youth, and families, or the department of corrections.

3 (2) The commission may issue a limited license to practice  
4 medicine in this state to persons who have been accepted for  
5 employment by a county or city health department as physicians; who  
6 are licensed to practice medicine in another state of the United  
7 States or in the country of Canada or any province or territory  
8 thereof; and who meet all of the qualifications for licensure set  
9 forth in RCW 18.71.050.

10 Such license shall permit the holder thereof to practice medicine  
11 only in connection with his or her duties in employment with the city  
12 or county health department.

13 (3) Upon receipt of a completed application showing that the  
14 applicant meets all of the requirements for licensure set forth in  
15 RCW 18.71.050 except for completion of two years of postgraduate  
16 medical training, and that the applicant has been appointed as a  
17 resident physician in a program of postgraduate clinical training in  
18 this state approved by the commission, the commission may issue a  
19 limited license to a resident physician. Such license shall permit  
20 the resident physician to practice medicine only in connection with  
21 his or her duties as a resident physician and shall not authorize the  
22 physician to engage in any other form of practice. Each resident  
23 physician shall practice medicine only under the supervision and  
24 control of a physician licensed in this state, but such supervision  
25 and control shall not be construed to necessarily require the  
26 personal presence of the supervising physician at the place where  
27 services are rendered.

28 (4) (a) Upon nomination by the dean of an accredited school of  
29 medicine in the state of Washington or the chief executive officer of  
30 a hospital or other appropriate health care facility licensed in the  
31 state of Washington, the commission may issue a limited license to a  
32 physician applicant invited to serve as a teaching-research member of  
33 the institution's instructional staff if the sponsoring institution  
34 and the applicant give evidence that he or she has graduated from a  
35 recognized medical school and has been licensed or otherwise  
36 privileged to practice medicine at his or her location of origin.  
37 Such license shall permit the recipient to practice medicine only  
38 within the confines of the instructional program specified in the  
39 application and shall terminate whenever the holder ceases to be  
40 involved in that program, or at the end of one year, whichever is

1 earlier. Upon request of the applicant and the institutional  
2 authority, the license may be renewed. The holder of a teaching  
3 research license under this subsection (4)(a) is eligible for full  
4 licensure if the following conditions are met:

5 (i) If the applicant has not graduated from a school of medicine  
6 located in any state, territory, or possession of the United States,  
7 the District of Columbia, or the Dominion of Canada, the applicant  
8 must satisfactorily pass the certification process by the educational  
9 commission for foreign medical graduates;

10 (ii) The applicant has successfully completed the exam  
11 requirements set forth by the commission by rule;

12 (iii) The applicant has the ability to read, write, speak,  
13 understand, and be understood in the English language at a level  
14 acceptable for performing competent medical care in all practice  
15 settings;

16 (iv) The applicant has continuously held a position of associate  
17 professor or higher at an accredited Washington state medical school  
18 for no less than three years; and

19 (v) The applicant has had no disciplinary action taken in the  
20 previous five years.

21 (b) Upon nomination by the dean of an accredited school of  
22 medicine in the state of Washington or the chief executive officer of  
23 any hospital or appropriate health care facility licensed in the  
24 state of Washington, the commission may issue a limited license to an  
25 applicant selected by the sponsoring institution to be enrolled in  
26 one of its designated departmental or divisional fellowship programs  
27 provided that the applicant shall have graduated from a recognized  
28 medical school and has been granted a license or other appropriate  
29 certificate to practice medicine in the location of the applicant's  
30 origin. Such license shall permit the holder only to practice  
31 medicine within the confines of the fellowship program to which he or  
32 she has been appointed and, upon the request of the applicant and the  
33 sponsoring institution, the license may be renewed by the commission.

34 All persons licensed under this section shall be subject to the  
35 jurisdiction of the commission to the same extent as other members of  
36 the medical profession, in accordance with this chapter and chapter  
37 18.130 RCW.

38 Persons applying for licensure and renewing licenses pursuant to  
39 this section shall comply with administrative procedures,  
40 administrative requirements, and fees determined as provided in RCW

1 43.70.250 and 43.70.280. Any person who obtains a limited license  
2 pursuant to this section may apply for licensure under this chapter,  
3 but shall submit a new application form and comply with all other  
4 licensing requirements of this chapter.

5 (5) The commission may issue a time-limited clinical experience  
6 license to an applicant who does not qualify for licensure under RCW  
7 18.71.050 or chapter 18.71B RCW and who meets the requirements  
8 established by the commission in rule for the purpose of gaining  
9 clinical experience at an approved facility or program.

10 (6) (a) Upon nomination by the chief medical officer of any  
11 hospital, appropriate medical practice located in the state of  
12 Washington, the department of social and health services, the  
13 department of children, youth, and families, the department of  
14 corrections, or a county or city health department, the commission  
15 may issue a limited license to an international medical graduate if  
16 the applicant:

17 (i) Has been a Washington state resident for at least one year;

18 (ii) Provides proof the applicant is certified by the educational  
19 commission for foreign medical graduates;

20 (iii) Has passed all steps of the United States medical licensing  
21 examination; and

22 (iv) Submits to the commission background check process required  
23 of applicants generally.

24 (b) A license holder under this subsection may only practice:

25 (i) Under the supervision and control of a physician who is  
26 licensed in this state under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW and is of the  
27 same or substantially similar clinical specialty; and

28 (ii) Within the nominating facility or organization.

29 (c) A license holder must file with the commission a practice  
30 agreement between the license holder and the supervising physician  
31 who is of the same or substantially similar clinical specialty.

32 (d) A supervising physician may supervise no more than two  
33 license holders under this subsection unless the commission grants a  
34 request to increase this limit.

35 (e) A limited license issued under this subsection is valid for  
36 two years and may be renewed once by the commission upon application  
37 for renewal by the nominating entity.

38 (f) All persons licensed under this subsection are subject to the  
39 jurisdiction of the commission to the same extent as other members of

1 the medical profession, in accordance with this chapter and chapter  
2 18.130 RCW.

3 (g) Persons applying for licensure and renewing licenses under  
4 this subsection shall comply with administrative procedures,  
5 administrative requirements, and fees determined as provided in RCW  
6 43.70.250 and 43.70.280.

7 (h) The supervising physician shall retain professional and  
8 personal responsibility for any act which constitutes the practice of  
9 medicine as defined in RCW 18.71.011 or the practice of osteopathic  
10 medicine and surgery as defined in RCW 18.57.001 when performed by an  
11 international medical graduate practicing under their supervision.  
12 The supervising physician must hold medical malpractice insurance for  
13 any malpractice claim against an international medical graduate  
14 practicing under their supervision.

Passed by the House April 13, 2021.  
Passed by the Senate April 10, 2021.  
Approved by the Governor May 10, 2021.  
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