
SENATE BILL 5226

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Nobles, Stanford, Hasegawa, Slatter, Valdez, and C. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to establishing funding for physician residency
2 positions dedicated to international medical graduates in accordance
3 with the waiver granted by the national residency matching program;
4 adding new sections to chapter 18.71 RCW; creating new sections;
5 providing an effective date; providing an expiration date; and
6 declaring an emergency.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to
9 increase the number of residency positions for the purpose of
10 integrating the existing international medical graduate workforce in
11 Washington state. The legislature finds that there is a clear
12 disparity of international medical graduates successfully matching
13 into Washington state residencies. Through the creation of a
14 statutory structure upon which a statewide waiver from the national
15 residency match program can be based, the legislature intends to
16 address health care shortages and health equity through the creation
17 of a grant program for international medical graduates who complete
18 these specified residencies.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
2 purpose, a grant program for international medical graduates is
3 established. The purpose of the program is to increase placement of
4 international medical graduates in the Washington state residency
5 system. The commission may disburse grants to residency programs as
6 authorized in this section and RCW 18.71.472 and 18.71.475.

7 (2) Authorized specialties that may receive grants include:
8 Family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry,
9 obstetrics and gynecology, and general surgery. These specialty
10 funding options may be expanded at the discretion of the commission
11 based on available funding, qualified programs, and available
12 residents.

13 (3) The commission may not use the funds allotted for this
14 program for any purpose other than disbursement of grants and
15 administrative costs associated with the program. The funding is not
16 subject to use or diversion by the department of health or any other
17 state entity.

18 (4) All residency programs receiving funding for positions under
19 this section must:

20 (a) Operate under the waiver granted by the national residency
21 matching program;

22 (b) Provide and operate the entire residency program with current
23 and good standing accreditation from the accreditation council for
24 graduate medical education;

25 (c) Result in the residency-trained physician being eligible to
26 be board certified by a board recognized by the American board of
27 medical specialties in the specialty trained; and

28 (d) Provide information to the commission upon request including,
29 but not limited to, program information, accreditation, resident
30 demographic information, and funding usage.

31 (5) The commission may adopt rules to implement this section.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 In accordance with section 2 of this act, the commission shall:

35 (1) Establish processes and selection criteria for grant award
36 recipients, one of which must be that no less than 75 percent of
37 accepted residency positions be filled with international medical
38 graduates. The commission may consider exceptions to this standard on
39 a case-by-case basis.

1 (2) Create an advisory committee whose members are appointed by
2 the commission executive director to provide support for establishing
3 selection criteria, award decisions, and consideration of
4 noncompliance issues. The advisory committee may be compensated under
5 the community compensation guidelines. Members of the advisory
6 committee must include, but are not limited to:

7 (a) A member of the commission;

8 (b) A residency program director or designee whose program does
9 not stand to benefit from the funding specified in section 2 of this
10 act;

11 (c) A member of a state ethnic health board; and

12 (d) A member of an organization representing the interests of
13 international medical graduates in Washington state;

14 (3) Establish and enact controls and recovery procedures to
15 ensure funds awarded are used for the contractually agreed-upon
16 purposes;

17 (4) Accept grants, gifts, donations, or other funding sources for
18 the sole purpose of funding these residency positions; and

19 (5) Disburse additional funds provided through legislative action
20 should additional funding be available.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 18.71
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) The commission shall report to the legislature in accordance
24 with RCW 43.01.036 by January 1st of each biennium, beginning with
25 January 1, 2027, the following information:

26 (a) Number of residency positions funded and their location
27 within the state;

28 (b) Number of residency physicians completing the residencies and
29 their demographics; and

30 (c) Further recommendations for amount of funding or residency
31 specialty expansion from those previously authorized.

32 (2) This section expires July 1, 2032.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of
34 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
35 provided by June 30, 2025, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
36 act is null and void.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
3 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
4 effect July 1, 2025.

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