AN ACT

Relating to the licensure of foreign medical graduates and to applications for a license to practice medicine; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1
AN ACT

Relating to the licensure of foreign medical graduates and to applications for a license to practice medicine; and providing for an effective date.

* Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that foreign medical graduates can be competent and qualified to provide medical care to residents of the state; there is a shortage of physicians in the state, and additional discretion to license foreign medical graduates is needed.

(b) It is the intent of the legislature to provide additional discretion to the State Medical Board to license foreign medical graduates while ensuring that foreign medical graduates possess the necessary training and skill to practice medicine competently.

* Sec. 2. AS 08.64.200(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except for foreign medical graduates as specified in AS 08.64.225, each
physician applicant shall

(1) submit a certificate of graduation from a legally chartered medical school accredited by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association;

(2) submit a certificate from a recognized hospital or hospitals certifying that the applicant has satisfactorily performed the duties of resident physician or intern for a period of

(A) one year if the applicant graduated from medical school before January 1, 1995, as evidenced by a certificate of completion of the first year of postgraduate training from the facility where the applicant completed the first year of internship or residency; and

(B) two years if the applicant graduated from medical school on or after January 1, 1995, as evidenced by a certificate of completion of the first year of postgraduate training from the facility where the applicant completed the first year of internship or residency and a certificate of successful completion of one additional year of postgraduate training at a recognized hospital;

(3) submit a list of negotiated settlements or judgments in claims or civil actions alleging medical malpractice against the applicant, including an explanation of the basis for each claim or action; and

(4) not have a license to practice medicine in another state, country, province, or territory that is currently suspended or revoked for disciplinary reasons.

*Sec. 3.* AS 08.64.225 is amended to read:

Sec. 08.64.225. Foreign medical graduates. Applicants who are graduates of medical colleges not accredited by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association shall

(1) meet the requirements of AS 08.64.200(a)(3) and (4) and 08.64.255;

(2) have successfully completed

(A) three years of postgraduate training as evidenced by a certificate of completion of the first year of postgraduate training from the
facility where the applicant completed the first year of internship or residency and a certificate of successful completion of two additional years of postgraduate training at a recognized hospital; or

(B) other requirements establishing proof of competency and professional qualifications as the board considers necessary to ensure the continued protection of the public adopted at the discretion of the board by regulation; and

(3) have passed examinations as specified by the board in regulations.

* Sec. 4. AS 08.64.225 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(b) Requirements establishing proof of competency under (a)(2)(B) of this section may include

(1) current licensure in another state and an active medical practice in that state for at least three years; or

(2) current board certification in a practice specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

(c) In this section, "recognized hospital" means a hospital that has been approved for internship or residency training by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).