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Sponsor Statement

HB 237

House Bill 237 will make Alaska a party to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Alaska will greatly reduce the current delay in licensure and ensure greater access to medical providers across the state by joining with other compact states to create an expedited license for qualified physicians.

Under this compact, physicians verify their eligibility for an expedited license through their state of primary licensure. If they meet the compact requirements, including a fingerprint background check and verification of all primary documents and education, their primary state will notify the Interstate Commission that they are eligible. To practice medicine in another compact state the physician will register through the interstate commission, who will verify to the selected states that the physician is eligible for licensure. They must pay all applicable licensure fees to any state in which they wish to be licensed. Compact states must issue licenses to any physician eligible through the interstate commission. However, individual states retain the flexibility to issue a temporary license while they require the physician to get any additional continuing education certifications or other documents normally required by the state's medical board which were not already required by the compact. Any physician receiving an expedited license to practice in the state will be governed by the state's medical practice laws just like a physician who is only licensed in Alaska.

Using a central depository like the Interstate Commission will eliminate the need for duplicate verification of documents, reduce delays in the licensure process, and increase Alaskan's access to healthcare while maintaining individual state licensure fees and medical practice laws. Twelve states have joined the compact, and eleven have introduced legislation.