

HB

102

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FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HB 102
(H) Publish Date: 2/9/05

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Title Foreign Medical School Graduates
Sponsor Stoltze
Requester House Labor and Commerce
Dept. Affected: Commerce
RDU Occupational Licensing ('17)
Component Occupational Licensing
Component No. 2360

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1156)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other 1156 - Receipt Supported Services						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 102 grants the State Medical Board authority to use discretion in licensing foreign medical graduates. New funds are not required to implement the provisions of this bill.

Prepared by: Jennifer Strickler, Administrative Manager Phone (907) 465-2144
Division Occupational Licensing Date/Time 2/2/05 5:40 PM
Approved by: Edgar Blatchford Date 2/2/2005
Agency Commerce, Community & Economic Development

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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House Finance Committee

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for:
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Department of Law



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REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZE

Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

House Bill 102

Foreign Medical School Graduates

"An act relating to the licensure of foreign medical graduates; and providing for an effective date."

There is a chronic shortage of physicians in Alaska. This shortage is acute, even in Anchorage, and in the specialty fields of general internal medicine, psychiatry, and general surgery, to name a few.

An option to help ease this shortage is to provide the State Medical Board discretion in defining the training and qualifications required of licensure for foreign medical school graduates. Currently, the State Medical Board has no discretion. An increase in qualified, well trained physicians would help Alaskans receive the care they need when they need it.

HB 102 provides the State Medical Board with the authority to adopt regulations that provide for alternatives to the current inflexible licensing requirements.

The provisions of HB 102:

- Provide the mechanism for the State Medical Board to adopt competency requirements for foreign medical school graduates.
- In lieu of the two year U.S. residency training requirement, the State Medical Board is allowed to adopt alternative requirements such as licensure in another state with a history of active practice for at least 3 years or being board certified in a certain specialty area of practice.

I ask for your consideration and support of HB 102 to help alleviate the shortage of physicians in Alaska.

DISTRICT 16

BIRCHWOOD • BUTTE • CHUGIAK • ERLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP
KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK

Alaska State Medical Association

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February 11, 2005

Honorable Mike Chenault and Honorable Kevin Meyer
State of Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, House Finance Committee
Room 519
Juneau AK 99801

Re: HB 102 – Licensure of Foreign Medical Students

Dear Representative Chenault, Representative Meyer, and House Finance Committee Members:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA), represents physicians throughout Alaska, and is primarily concerned with the health care for Alaska's patients.

ASMA urges you to support HB 102 and provide another tool to help us attract well trained doctors in sufficient numbers in order to provide the timely and quality care all Alaskans deserve.

Alaska has a chronic shortage of physician as evidenced by:

1. According to the American Medical Association, in 2002 only 6 states had fewer physicians per capita than Alaska (AM News 1/19/04).
2. Molly Southworth, MD, in her July 2004 Masters of Public Health thesis, stated that Alaska has from 17% to 30% fewer physicians than the U.S. average; ("Alaska's Physician Workforce: An Overview, a Summary of Training Backgrounds, and the Impact of the WWAMI Program," July 2004, Molly B. Southworth, MD pp. 26-33.); and
3. In the Fall of 2002, Providence Health Systems did a physician workforce analysis for Anchorage, which showed specialty physician shortages of 43 general internists, 12 radiologists, 14 pathologists, 5 neurologists, 20 general surgeons, 29 ENTs, and 50 psychiatrists, for example. (2002 Anchorage Physician Workforce, Providence Health System Alaska, pp. 17-18.)

Also, it has been reported that the number of general internists in Anchorage has dropped from 33 in 2002 to 17 today. Primarily, this is due to the aging of our physician workforce.

Currently, the State Medical Board has no discretion in determining credentials for licensure of foreign medical school graduates in Alaska, other than completion of a 3 year U. S. graduate medical education program (residency). However, there are graduates of foreign medical schools that are well trained, licensed to practice medicine in other states, and are certified in an area of specialty practice by the American Board of Specialty Boards. But, those with less than a three year residency can not currently be licensed in Alaska.

HB 102 provides the State Medical Board the discretion, to adopt by regulation, other proof of competency that would warrant licensure in Alaska. Those requirements may include current licensure and active practice in another state for at least 3 years; or current board certification in a specialty practice area.

ASMA supports giving the State Medical Board more discretion in licensing qualified foreign medical school graduates and urges your support as well.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Jordan', written in a cursive style.

By: James Jordan, Executive Director
For: The Alaska State Medical Association

cc: Representative Bill Stoltze