

HB

102

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORTED OUT

April 7 2005

SENATE FINANCE
COMMITTEE

DATE: 3/18/05

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 4/27/05

Finance Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 102 am

HB 102 MEDICAL LICENSE: APPLICATION/FOREIGN GRAD

"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."

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

CS Senate Bill:
 Same Title
 New Title

SCS House Bill:
 Same Title
 Technical Title Change
 New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Ind.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Ind.	Zero	FN#
DEED		2/2/05		✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
COCHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			

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 Stolze
Requester House Labor and Commerce
Dept. Affected: Commerce
RDU Occupational Licensing (117)
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)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
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

Vice Chair:
House Finance Committee

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for,
Department of Public Safety
Department of Law



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4958
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PO Box 464
Chugiak, AK 99567

REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZE

Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

House Bill 102 am

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 adopt alternative requirements that could include 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 • EKLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP
KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK

Alaska State Medical Association

4107 Laurel Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 562-0304 • (907) 561-2063 (fax)

January 25, 2005

Honorable Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau Alaska, 99801

Transmitted by Fax:
907-465-4928

Re: HB 102 – Licensure of Foreign Medical Graduates

Dear Representative Stoltze:

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

Alaska has a chronic shortage of physicians with a continuing need to recruit more. Alaska has one of the lowest numbers of physicians per capita in the country, coupled with an aged physician workforce. With no medical school, only 10 WWAMI medical students graduating each year, and only one residency program (a family practice residency), Alaska has been and will probably always be a net importer of physicians.

Currently, the State Medical Board has no discretion in determining credentials for licensure of foreign medical graduates in Alaska, other than completion of a 2 year, U. S. graduate medical education program. However, there are physicians who are graduates of foreign medical schools that are well trained, licensed to practice medicine in other states, and are certified in an area specialty practice by the American Board of Specialty Boards. Such graduates have exhibited appropriate training and skills to effectively and safely practice medicine in the U. S. However, those with less than a two-year U.S. residency can not currently be licensed in Alaska.

HB 102 provides the State Medical Board with the discretion, to adopt by regulation, other proof of competency that would warrant a license to practice 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 HB 102 in order to give the State Medical Board more discretion in licensing qualified foreign medical school graduates. This is another tool that is needed to help attract well trained physicians in sufficient numbers to provide timely and appropriate care.

Sincerely,



By: Paul Worrell, MD President
For: The Alaska State Medical Association

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and SLEEP
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April 7, 2005

Senators Lyda Green and Gary Wilken
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Re: HB 102

Senators Green and Wilken;

I am writing to urge prompt passage of HB 102 relating to International Medical Graduates (IMGs).

As I testified telephonically, there is a shortage of physicians in Alaska in a number of specialty areas such as pulmonary disease, critical care medicine, endocrinology, rheumatology, and many others. This shortage is predicted to worsen in the coming years.

The present regulation stipulates that IMGs must have 3 years training in the US. The intent was to protect Alaskans from doctors graduating from "diploma mills" abroad and was well intentioned. However the wording ties the hands of the State Medical Board in its strict interpretation.

I will cite two examples;

1) I had an applicant who wanted to come to Alaska and join me. He was Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado and Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine (certified and recertified). He was a native of Venezuela, fully trained there and was head of the Critical Care Unit at the University Hospital.

He decided to move his family to the US, took a 3 month fellowship at the burn unit at Ann Arbor, MI and a two year fellowship in adult and pediatric lung disease at the University of Texas. He had trained and practiced in the US for 10 years.

Obviously eminently qualified but he could not be granted an Alaska license because he only had 27 months training in the US.

2) A physician who trained at Edinborough, Scotland and the Brompton Hospital in London (one of the most famous respiratory hospitals in the world).

April 8, 2005

He came to the US on a research fellowship, liked Pittsburgh and decided to remain in the US. He is now professor of Medicine and Head of the division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Pittsburgh as well as Head of their Health Care Policy Department.

He would not qualify for an Alaskan license because he had no training in the US.

The present regulation denies Alaskans health care from qualified practitioners. HB 102 would allow the State Medical Board to review the credentials of candidates and grant licensure where appropriate.

The amended wording in HB 102 is supported by the Alaska State Medical Association, Mr. Rick Urion, Director of the Division of Occupational Licensure and the State Medical Board.

Again, please move HB 102. Thank you for your attention to this important issue in Alaskan health care.

Sincerely yours,



George L Stewart, MD

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 2/28/05

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/17/05

Labor and Commerce Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 102 am

HB 102 FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES

"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."

and recommends:

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Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
DCED	2/2/05			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	No REC	AMEND
Ellis <i>[Signature]</i>			X	
Seekins <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓			