

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

HOUSE BILL HB2093

By: Paulk

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to professions and occupations; amending 59 O.S. 2001, Sections 493.2, 508 and 509.1, which relate to the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act; providing for acceptance of clerkships for foreign students; providing process; requiring submission of certified copies; expanding disciplinary authority of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision; providing time period for reapplications for licensure by certain persons; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2001, Section 493.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 493.2 A. Foreign applicants shall meet all requirements for licensure as provided in Sections ~~13~~ 492.1 and ~~14~~ 493.1 of this ~~act~~ title.

B. ~~Such~~ A foreign applicant shall possess the degree of Doctor of Medicine or a Board-approved equivalent based on satisfactory completion of educational programs from a school with education and training substantially equivalent to that offered by the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. In the event clerkships were utilized by the foreign medical school, such clerkships shall have been performed in hospitals and schools in the United States, its territories or possessions that have Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited programs.

C. ~~Such applicants~~ A foreign applicant shall have a command of the English language satisfactory to the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision and demonstrated by the passage of an oral English competency examination.

D. The Board may promulgate rules requiring all ~~such~~ foreign applicants to complete satisfactorily at least twelve (12) months and up to twenty-four (24) months of Board-approved progressive graduate medical training as determined necessary by the Board for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare.

E. All credentials, diplomas and other required documentation in a foreign language submitted to the Board by such applicants shall be accompanied by notarized English translations.

F. ~~Such~~ Foreign applicants shall provide satisfactory evidence of having met the requirements for permanent residence or temporary nonimmigrant status as set forth by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service.

G. Foreign applicants shall provide a certified copy of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) Certificate to the Board at such time and in such manner as required by the Board.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2001, Section 508, is amended to read as follows:

Section 508. A. Whenever any license has been procured or obtained by fraud or misrepresentation, or was issued by mistake; or if the diploma of graduation in medicine and surgery or any other credentials required as necessary to the admission to the examination for license were obtained by fraud or misrepresentation or were issued by mistake; or if the reciprocity endorsement from another state, upon which a license has been issued in this state, was procured by fraud or misrepresentation, or was issued by mistake, it shall be the duty of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision to ~~revoke such license~~ take appropriate disciplinary action in the same manner as is provided by ~~this act~~ the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act for ~~the revocation of license for the disciplining~~ of unprofessional conduct.

B. Use of fraudulent information to obtain a license shall be a misdemeanor offense, punishable, upon conviction, by the imposition of a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2001, Section 509.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 509.1 A. RANGE OF ACTIONS: The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision may impose disciplinary actions in accordance with the severity of violation of the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act. Disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Revocation of the medical license;
2. Suspension of the medical license;
3. Probation;
4. Stipulations, limitations, restrictions, and conditions relating to practice;
5. Censure (including specific redress, if appropriate);
6. Reprimand;
7. A period of free public or charity service; and
8. Satisfactory completion of an educational, training, and/or treatment program or programs.

Provided, as a condition of disciplinary action sanctions, the Board may impose as a condition of any disciplinary action, the payment of costs expended by the Board for any legal fees and costs and probation and monitoring fees, including but not limited to staff time, salary and travel expense, witness fees and attorney fees. The Board may take such actions singly or in combination as the nature of the violation requires.

B. LETTER OF CONCERN: The Board may authorize the secretary to issue a letter of concern to a licensee when evidence does not warrant formal proceedings, but the secretary has noted indications

of possible errant conduct that could lead to serious consequences and formal action. The letter of concern may contain, at the secretary's discretion, clarifying information from the licensee.

C. EXAMINATION/EVALUATION: The Board may, upon reasonable cause, require professional competency, physical, mental, or chemical dependency examinations of any licensee, including withdrawal and laboratory examination of body fluids.

D. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST LICENSEES:

1. The Board shall promulgate and adopt rules of Professional Conduct for professional conduct of physicians pursuant to the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act; and

2. Grounds for Action: The Board may take disciplinary action for unprofessional or unethical conduct as deemed appropriate based upon the merits of each case and as set out by rule. The Board shall not revoke the license of a person otherwise qualified to practice allopathic medicine within the meaning of the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act solely because the person's practice or a therapy is experimental or nontraditional.

Reports of all disciplinary action provided for in this section will be available to the public upon request.

E. 1. SURRENDER IN LIEU OF PROSECUTION: The Board may accept a surrender of license from a licensee who has engaged in unprofessional conduct in lieu of Board staff prosecuting a pending disciplinary action or filing formal disciplinary proceedings only as provided in this section. To effect such a surrender, the licensee must submit a sworn statement to the Board:

~~1. Expressing~~

a. expressing the licensee's desire to surrender the license~~†~~

~~2. Acknowledging~~

b. acknowledging that the surrender is freely and voluntarily made, that the licensee has not been subjected to coercion or duress, and that the licensee is fully aware of the consequences of the license surrender~~†~~.

~~3. Stating~~

c. stating that the licensee is the subject of an investigation or proceeding by the Board or a law enforcement or other regulatory agency involving allegations which, if proven, would constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the Board~~†~~ and

~~4. Specifically~~

d. specifically admitting to and describing the misconduct.

2. The sworn written statement must be submitted with the licensee's wallet card and wall certificate. The Secretary or Executive Director of the Board may accept the sworn statement, wallet card and wall certificate from a licensee pending formal acceptance by the Board. The issuance of a complaint and citation by the Board shall not be necessary for the Board to accept a surrender under this ~~section~~ subsection. A surrender under this ~~section~~ subsection shall be considered disciplinary action by the Board in all cases, even in cases where surrender occurs prior to the issuance of a formal complaint and citation, and shall be reported as disciplinary action by the Board to the public and any other entity to whom the Board regularly reports disciplinary actions.

3. As a condition to acceptance of the surrender, the Board may require the licensee to pay the costs expended by the Board for any legal fees and costs and any investigation, probation and monitoring fees, including but not limited to staff time, salary and travel expense, witness fees and attorney fees.

4. The licensee whose surrender in lieu of prosecution is accepted by the Board shall not be able to reapply for reinstatement of his or her license for at least one (1) year from the date of the accepted surrender.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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