

---

---

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor**

This measure may be considered for action during today's work session.

**SENATE BILL 124**

**Revises provisions relating to health care. (BDR 54-38)**

**Sponsored By:** Senator Doñate and Assemblymember González, et al.  
**Date Heard:** February 21, 2025  
**Fiscal Notes:** Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

Senate Bill 124 authorizes the Board of Medical Examiners to issue a limited license to practice medicine to a graduate of a qualified foreign medical school who meets certain criteria and possesses certain qualifications. The holder of a limited license shall only practice medicine in a facility that has a residency program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Once the holder of a limited license has completed at least two years of practice as a full-time physician and remains in good standing, the Board of Medical Examiners is required to issue an unrestricted license to this holder.

**Amendments:**

Senator Doñate proposes the attached conceptual amendment, which in summary:

In Section 1:

1. Revises Section 1, subsection 1, to allow the Board to issue a limited license to an applicant who:
  - a. Holds or has held a valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine issued by a foreign country other than Canada;
  - b. Completed a residency program or post-graduate training program in that foreign country or performed the duties of a physician in that foreign country within the last 5 years immediately preceding the date on which the application is submitted or upon a date greater than 5 years that has been deemed as permissible by the Board;
2. Removes subsection 2(a) and instead adds new provisions authorizing the Board to require a person holding a limited license (licensee) to provide a letter of employment from certain entities. Further, authorize the board to suspend or revoke a limited license if the board determines that the licensee is no longer employed as a physician by an employer in Nevada. Finally, allow licensee to change employers under certain conditions;
3. Revises subsection 2(b) that an applicant must fulfill language requirements related to English proficiency as prescribed and designated by the Board;
4. Revises subsection 2(d) that an applicant is or was in good standing with the foreign regulatory body that issued the license;
5. Adds in subsection 2(f) that an applicant must also pass Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination;
6. Adds a requirement for a licensee to be supervised by a fully licensed physician who meets certain qualifications and set forth a supervision agreement between the licensee and physician that must be approved by the Board;

7. Authorizes the Board to require a licensee to complete certain clinical competency evaluations or other competency requirements under certain circumstances;
8. Deletes subsection 3, which prohibited a licensee from practicing medicine except in a facility that has a residency program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in place;
9. Revises subsection 4 to authorize instead of require the Board to issue an unrestricted license to practice medicine to a licensee under certain conditions. Adds to these conditions a requirement that the licensee has received written approval from their supervising physician, who must certify that the applicant has met all evaluation requirements as designated by the Board and is qualified to practice independently;

Other amendments:

10. Authorizes the Board to adopt regulations to establish:
  - a. The time period and requirements for licensure renewal;
  - b. Any specialties authorized for applicants to practice in Nevada; and
  - c. The scope of medical services an applicant may perform under the supervision of a licensed physician;
11. Require the Board to submit a report on or before November 30 annually to the Nevada Legislature that includes information about the total number of applications for both limited and unrestricted licenses, providing updates on the program's implementation, as well as qualitative metrics and evaluative assessments of licensees, comprehensive data on health care facility types offering employment to these applicants, physician specialties, and the geographic distribution of the placement of applicants.

## **EXHIBIT A – Proposed Bill Language with Amendments**

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to health care. (BDR 54-38)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

Effect on the State: Yes.

AN ACT relating to health care; providing for the limited licensure of certain foreign physicians; prescribing the conditions under which such a limited licensee is authorized to practice medicine; providing for the unrestricted licensure of certain limited licensees; updating certain references; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

### **Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law provides for the licensing of physicians by the Board of Medical Examiners. (NRS 630.160-630.1607, 630.258-630.2665) Existing law also authorizes a graduate of a foreign medical school to obtain a restricted license to teach, research or practice medicine at a medical facility, medical research facility or medical school by completing certain requirements that are less stringent than the requirements to obtain an unrestricted license. (NRS 630.2645) If the holder of such a restricted license wishes to obtain an unrestricted license, existing law requires the holder to meet all of the qualifications ordinarily required to obtain an unrestricted license. (NRS 630.160, 630.2645)

**Section 1** of this bill authorizes the Board of Medical Examiners to issue a limited license to practice medicine to a graduate of a qualified foreign medical school who: (1) holds a valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine issued by a foreign country other than Canada; (2) has completed a residency program or has performed the duties of a physician in that foreign country within a certain amount of time before applying for the license; and (3) possesses certain other qualifications related to the practice of medicine. **Section 1** requires that the holder of a limited license only practice medicine in a facility that has a residency program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. **Section 1** requires the Board of Medical Examiners to issue an unrestricted license to the holder of a limited license who: (1) has completed at least 2 years of practice as a full-time physician under the limited license; and (2) remains in good standing.

**Section 2** of this bill makes a conforming change to clarify that an applicant for a limited license to practice medicine pursuant to **section 1** is not required to possess the same qualifications as an applicant for a standard license. **Sections 3-6** of this bill update references to certification by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates in existing law to reflect the current practices of the Commission.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN

SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 630 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. *Except as otherwise provided in NRS 630.161, the Board may issue a limited license to practice medicine to an applicant who:*

- (a)  ~~Holds~~ *Has held* a valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine issued by a foreign country other than Canada and has:
- (1) *Completed a residency program or post-graduate training program in that foreign country ~~within the 5 years immediately preceding the date on which the application is submitted~~ or performed the duties of a physician in that foreign country within the last ~~for at least 3 of the~~ 5 years immediately preceding the date on which the application is submitted or upon a date greater than 5 years that has been deemed as permissible by the Board; and*
  - (2) ~~Received an offer for employment as a physician at a facility in this State which has a residency program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education;~~ *Upon being granted limited licensure, the Board of Medical Examiners may require the applicant to provide a letter of employment from one of the following entities: a federally qualified health center, a local health district, a state or county governmental entity, a university medical school, a nonprofit health center providing behavioral health or primary care services, or any healthcare facility or physician practice located in a health professional shortage area for primary care, as designated by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 254e, or an area with a medically underserved population pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 254b. The board may suspend or revoke a limited license if a majority of the board determines that the licensee is no longer employed as a physician in this state by an*

*employer. The licensee must be granted an opportunity to be heard prior to the board's determination. A licensee may change employers during the duration of the limited license if the licensee has another offer of employment. In the event that a change of employment occurs, the licensee must still fulfill all oversight and evaluation requirements to remain eligible for a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine as prescribed by the Board.*

- (b) ~~Has basic fluency in the English language;~~ *Fulfills language requirements related to English proficiency as prescribed and designated by the Board.*
- (c) *Is of good moral character and reputation;*
- (d) ~~Is~~ *Was in good standing with the foreign regulatory body that issued the license described in paragraph (a);*
- (e) *Is a graduate of a foreign medical school whose curriculum is judged to be acceptable by the Board; and*
- (f) *Has passed Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination.*
- (g) *Is supervised by a physician licensed in good standing pursuant to NRS 630 who is within the same specialty for a minimum period of two years with continuous monitoring, regular evaluations, and reporting metrics. The supervision agreement must be completed and approved by the Board prior to the applicant beginning their scope of work. Such agreements must have one or more supervising physicians and approved supervising agreements on file with the Board in order to provide medical services in this state. The Board may establish by regulations any requirements related to the supervision of an*

*applicant and any clinical competency evaluations.*

*2. The holder of a limited license granted pursuant to this section may be required to complete a clinical competency evaluation similar to USMLE Step 2 clinical skills examination as prescribed by the Board. The Board may establish by regulation any competency requirements as deemed necessary by NRS 630.257 if they have not practiced clinically within the 24 months preceding the application.*

*3. The holder of a limited license granted pursuant to this section may be disciplined by the Board at any time for any of the grounds provided in NRS 630.161 or 630.301 to 630.3065, inclusive.*

~~*4. The holder of a limited license issued pursuant to this section shall not practice medicine except in a facility that has a residency program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in place. This subsection must not be construed to apply to the holder of an unrestricted license issued pursuant to subsection 4.*~~

*3. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 630.161, the Board shall may issue an unrestricted license to practice medicine upon the submission of an application by the holder of a limited license issued pursuant to this section who:*

*(a) Has completed at least 2 years of practice as a full-time physician under the limited license; and*

*(b) Is in good standing in this State.*

*(c) Has received written approval from their supervising physician, who must certify that the applicant has met all evaluation requirements as designated by the Board and is qualified to practice independently.*

*4. The Board may establish by regulation the time period and requirements for licensure renewal, including, but not limited to, any application and registration fees pursuant to NRS 630.268.*

*5. The Board may establish by regulation any specialties authorized for applicants to practice in the state, including, but not limited to, applicants who specialize in primary care as defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Primary Care First Model. By that definition, primary care specialties include internal medicine, general medicine, geriatric medicine, family medicine, hospice and palliative medicine.*

*6. The Board may establish by regulations the scope of medical services an applicant may perform under the supervision of a licensed physician, including but not limited to,*

*(a) The authority to order home health care.*

*(b) The prescribing authority of applicants, limiting it to the same schedules of controlled substances as their supervising physicians under state and federal law.*

*(c) How applicants must clearly identify themselves to patients and healthcare providers, including wearing a badge if required by law.*

*(d) The performance of any procedures with or without the presence of their supervising physicians, including, but not limited to, life-threatening and emergency situations.*

*7. The Board shall adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 630.160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

630.160 1. Every person desiring to practice medicine must, before beginning to practice, procure from the Board a license authorizing the person to practice.

1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 630.1605 to 630.161, inclusive, and 630.258 to 630.2665, inclusive, *and section 1 of this act*, a license may be issued to any person who:

(e) Has received the degree of doctor of medicine from a medical school:

(11) Approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and Association of American Medical Colleges; or

(11) Which provides a course of professional instruction equivalent to that provided in medical schools in the United States approved by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education;

(e) Is currently certified by a specialty board of the American Board of Medical Specialties and who agrees to maintain the certification for the duration of the licensure, or has passed:

(11) All parts of the examination given by the National Board of Medical Examiners;

(11) All parts of the Federation Licensing Examination;

(11) All parts of the United States Medical Licensing Examination;

(11) All parts of a licensing examination given by any state or territory of the United States, if the applicant is certified by a specialty board of the American Board of Medical Specialties;

(11) All parts of the examination to become a licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada;

or

(11) Any combination of the examinations specified in subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3) that the Board determines to be sufficient;

(e) Is currently certified by a specialty board of the American Board of Medical Specialties in the specialty of emergency medicine, preventive medicine or family medicine and who agrees to maintain certification in at least one of these specialties for the duration of the licensure, or:

(11) Has completed 36 months of progressive postgraduate:

(II) Education as a resident in the United States or Canada in a program approved by the Board, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the Collège des médecins du Québec or the College of Family Physicians of Canada, or, as applicable, their successor organizations; or

(II) Fellowship training in the United States or Canada approved by the Board or the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education;

(11) Has completed at least 36 months of postgraduate education, not less than 24 months of which must have been completed as a resident after receiving a medical degree from a combined dental and medical degree program approved by the Board; or

(11) Is a resident who is enrolled in a progressive postgraduate training program in the United States or Canada approved by the Board, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the Collège des médecins du Québec or the College of Family Physicians of Canada, or, as applicable, their successor organizations, has completed at least 24 months of the program and has committed, in writing, to the Board that he or she will complete the program; and

(e) Passes a written or oral examination, or both, as to his or her qualifications to practice medicine and provides the Board with a description of the clinical program completed demonstrating that the applicant's clinical training met the requirements of paragraph (a).

2. The Board may issue a license to practice medicine after the Board verifies, through any readily available source, that the applicant has complied with the provisions of subsection 2. The verification may include, but is not limited to, using the Federation Credentials Verification Service. If any information is verified by a source other than the primary source of the

information, the Board may require subsequent verification of the information by the primary source of the information.

3. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, if, after issuing a license to practice medicine, the Board obtains information from a primary or other source of information and that information differs from the information provided by the applicant or otherwise received by the Board, the Board may:

(e) Temporarily suspend the license;

(e) Promptly review the differing information with the Board as a whole or in a committee appointed by the Board;

(e) Declare the license void if the Board or a committee appointed by the Board determines that the information submitted by the applicant was false, fraudulent or intended to deceive the Board;

(e) Refer the applicant to the Attorney General for possible criminal prosecution pursuant to NRS 630.400; or

(e) If the Board temporarily suspends the license, allow the license to return to active status subject to any terms and conditions specified by the Board, including:

(11) Placing the licensee on probation for a specified period with specified conditions;

(11) Administering a public reprimand;

(11) Limiting the practice of the licensee;

(11) Suspending the license for a specified period or until further order of the Board;

(11) Requiring the licensee to participate in a program to correct an alcohol or other substance use disorder;

(11) Requiring supervision of the practice of the licensee;

(11) Imposing an administrative fine not to exceed \$5,000;

(11) Requiring the licensee to perform community service without compensation;

(11) Requiring the licensee to take a physical or mental examination or an examination testing his or her competence to practice medicine;

(11) Requiring the licensee to complete any training or educational requirements specified by the Board; and

(11) Requiring the licensee to submit a corrected application, including the payment of all appropriate fees and costs incident to submitting an application.

4. If the Board determines after reviewing the differing information to allow the license to remain in active status, the action of the Board is not a disciplinary action and must not be reported to any national database. If the Board determines after reviewing the differing information to declare the license void, its action shall be deemed a disciplinary action and shall be reportable to national databases.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 630.195 is hereby amended to read as follows:

630.195 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 630.1606 and 630.1607, in addition to the other requirements for licensure, an applicant for a license to practice medicine who is a graduate of a foreign medical school shall submit to the Board proof that the applicant has received:

(b) The degree of doctor of medicine or its equivalent, as determined by the Board; and

(b) The ~~standard~~ certificate of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates .

~~for a written statement from that Commission that the applicant passed the examination given by~~

~~the Commission.~~

2. The proof of the degree of doctor of medicine or its equivalent must be submitted directly to the Board by the medical school that granted the degree. If proof of the degree is unavailable from the medical school that granted the degree, the Board may accept proof from any other source specified by the Board.

**Sec. 4.** NRS 630.265 is hereby amended to read as follows:

630.265 1. Unless the Board denies such licensure pursuant to NRS 630.161 or for other good cause, the Board shall issue to a qualified applicant a limited license to practice medicine as a resident physician in a graduate program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education if the applicant is:

(b) A graduate of an accredited medical school in the United States or Canada; or

(b) A graduate of a foreign medical school and ~~has received the standard certificate of~~ *is certified by* the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates . ~~for a written statement from that Commission that the applicant passed the examination given by it.~~

2. The medical school or other institution sponsoring the program shall provide the Board with written confirmation that the applicant has been appointed to a position in the program. A limited license remains valid only while the licensee is actively practicing medicine in the residency program and is legally entitled to work and remain in the United States.

3. The Board may issue a limited license for not more than 1 year but may renew the license if the applicant for the limited license meets the requirements set forth by the Board by regulation.

4. The holder of a limited license may practice medicine only in connection with his or her duties as a resident physician or under such conditions as are approved by the director of the program.

5. The holder of a limited license granted pursuant to this section may be disciplined by the Board at any time for any of the grounds provided in NRS 630.161 or 630.301 to 630.3065, inclusive.

**Sec. 5.** NRS 630A.270 is hereby amended to read as follows:

630A.270 1. An applicant for a license to practice homeopathic medicine who is a graduate of a foreign medical school shall submit to the Board through its Secretary-Treasurer proof that the applicant:

(e) Has received the degree of doctor of medicine or its equivalent, as determined by the Board, from a foreign medical school recognized by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates;

(e) Has completed 3 years of postgraduate training satisfactory to the Board;

(e) Has completed an additional 6 months of postgraduate training in homeopathic medicine;

(e) ~~Has received the standard certificate of~~ *Is certified by* the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates; and

(e) Has passed all parts of the Federation Licensing Examination . ~~or has received a written statement from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates that the applicant has passed the examination given by the Commission.~~

2. In addition to the proofs required by subsection 1, the Board may take such further evidence and require such further proof of the professional and moral qualifications of the applicant as in its discretion may be deemed proper.

3. If the applicant is a diplomate of an approved specialty board recognized by this Board, the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection 1 may be waived by the Board.

4. Before issuance of a license to practice homeopathic medicine, the applicant who presents the proof required by subsection 1 shall appear personally before the Board and satisfactorily pass a written or oral examination, or both, as to his or her qualifications to practice homeopathic medicine.

**Sec. 6.** NRS 630A.320 is hereby amended to read as follows:

630A.320 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 630A.225, the Board may issue to a qualified applicant a limited license to practice homeopathic medicine as a resident homeopathic physician in a postgraduate program of clinical training if:

(b)The applicant is a graduate of an accredited medical school in the United States or Canada or is a graduate of a foreign medical school recognized by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates and has completed 1 year of supervised clinical training approved by the Board.

(b)The Board approves the program of clinical training, and the medical school or other institution sponsoring the program provides the Board with written confirmation that the applicant has been appointed to a position in the program.

2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, an applicant who is a graduate of a foreign medical school must ~~have received the standard certificate of~~ *be certified by* the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates.

3. The Board may issue this limited license for not more than 1 year, but may renew the license.

4. The holder of this limited license may practice homeopathic medicine only in connection with his or her duties as a resident physician and shall not engage in the private practice of homeopathic medicine.

5. A limited license granted under this section may be revoked by the Board at any time for any of the grounds set forth in NRS 630A.225 or 630A.340 to 630A.380, inclusive.

**Sec. 7.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1 to 6, inclusive, of this act become effective:

(b) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

(b) On ~~January~~ July 1, 2026, for all other purposes.

**New Section:**

**The Board of Medical Examiners shall submit a report to the Nevada Legislature annually detailing the total number of applications for both limited and unrestricted licenses, providing updates on the program's implementation, along with qualitative metrics and evaluative assessments of limited licensed physicians. The report shall include, but not limited to, comprehensive data on health care facility types offering employment to these applicants, physician specialties, and the geographic distribution of the placement of applicants. The report to the Nevada Legislature will be due on or before November 30 of each year.**