



Oregon

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Medical Board

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To: Legislative Assembly

From: Oregon Medical Board

Nicole Krishnaswami, Executive Director

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www.oregon.gov/omb

Re: Senate Bill 855 (2019) Report

Introduction

Senate Bill 855 directs professional licensing boards to study the manner in which persons who are immigrants or refugees become authorized to practice regulated occupations or professions, and to develop and implement methods to reduce barriers to licensure for these persons. The purpose of this memo is to report on progress of the Oregon Medical Board (OMB) in meeting the requirements of SB 855.

License Types and Requirements

Condensed summary, please contact the OMB for further details on these general requirements.

Medical Doctor (MD) and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)¹

- Graduate from an accredited school of medicine or approved international school of medicine.
- Pass a national licensing examination:
 - USMLE Steps 1 through 3 if a graduate of an approved school of medicine; or
 - ECFMG and USMLE Step 3 if a graduate of an unapproved school of medicine (international school of medicine), or complete a Fifth Pathway training program.
- Complete post-graduate training:
 - One year of training in an accredited residency program if a graduate of an approved school of medicine; or
 - Three years of training in an accredited residency program if a graduate of an unapproved school of medicine (international school of medicine), or specialty board certification, or four years of practice under a Limited License, Medical Faculty.

Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM)²

- Graduate from an accredited school or college of podiatric medicine.
- Pass a national licensing examination (e.g. APMLE or NBPME).
- Complete one year of certified post-graduate training in an approved hospital.

Physician Assistant (PA)³

- Complete an accredited physician assistant education program.
- Pass a national certification examination (i.e. PANCE).

¹ ORS 677.100 and OAR 847-020

² ORS 677.820 and OAR 847-080-0010

³ ORS 677.512 and OAR 847-050-0020

Acupuncturist (AC)⁴

- Complete education and training:
 - Graduate from an accredited acupuncture program or an equivalent program approved by a foreign government agency; or
 - Five years of licensed clinical acupuncture practice in the United States during the last seven years and completion of ACAOM western medicine requirements; or
 - Acupuncture education and training completed in a foreign country may be considered eligible if it the applicant has equivalent skills and training and one year of training or supervised practice under a licensed acupuncturist in the U.S.
- Pass a national certification exam (i.e. NCCAOM).
- Pass the national certification exam in English, or pass an English language proficiency exam (e.g. TOEFL or TSE).

Current Barriers Licensure for Immigrants/Refugees

The barriers to licensure for MD and DO physicians are most directly related to the complexity and costs of qualifying and matching into medical residency programs. International medical graduates are required to complete a three-year residency program to qualify for licensure; however, only a limited number of residency spots are available each year, and competition is high. In addition, many residency programs will consider only applicants who have recently graduated from medical school (within 3-5 years), but many immigrants and refugees have graduated from medical school more than five years ago. Addressing this barrier will require additional funding and residency spots for immigrants and refugees.

For acupuncturist immigrants and refugees, the barriers to licensure are passing the national certification exam and obtaining one year of training or supervised practice under a U.S.-licensed acupuncturist. The OMB currently provides multiple pathways to licensure for internationally trained acupuncturists.

The podiatric physician and PA professions are U.S.-based professions with education and training programs only offered in the U.S.

Board Proposals to Remove Barriers to Licensure

Current efforts underway:

- Licensing staff provide direct, individualized support for immigrants and refugees.
- Executive staff collaborates with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and other health professional regulatory boards in Oregon.

Proposals being considered by the Board:

- Create a topic of interest webpage for international medical graduates, to include:
 - Requirements for licensure clearly outlined by license type.
 - Information about alternative pathways to licensure.
 - Other health care careers with reduced or no requirements for entry (e.g. medical interpreter, medical scribe, surgical technician, medical assistant, and public health).
- Adopt a Statement of Philosophy affirming the Board's support of immigrant and refugee applicants and recognizing the benefits of their linguistic abilities, cultural competencies, and potential to mitigate health care worker shortages.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. A copy of this report may be obtained by contacting info@omb.oregon.gov or 971-673-2700.

⁴ ORS 677.759 and OAR 847-070-0016