

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 509

(SENATE AUTHORS: MANN, Klein, Lieske, Abeler and Boldon)

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|------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01/23/2025 | 152 | Introduction and first reading Referred to Health and Human Services |
| 01/27/2025 | 200 | Author added Boldon |

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to health; amending licensing requirements for graduates of foreign medical
1.3 schools; authorizing the commissioner of health to remedy certain violations by
1.4 employers of limited license holders; requiring employers of limited license holders
1.5 to carry medical malpractice insurance; requiring limited license holders to provide
1.6 periodic certification to the medical board; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024,
1.7 sections 144.99, subdivision 1; 147.037, by adding a subdivision.

1.8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 144.99, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Remedies available.** The provisions of chapters 103I and 157 and sections 115.71 to 115.77; 144.12, subdivision 1, paragraphs (1), (2), (5), (6), (10), (12), (13), (14), and (15); 144.1201 to 144.1204; 144.121; 144.1215; 144.1222; 144.35; 144.381 to 144.385; 144.411 to 144.417; 144.495; 144.71 to 144.74; 144.9501 to 144.9512; 144.97 to 144.98; 144.992; 147.037, subdivision 1b, paragraph (d); 326.70 to 326.785; 327.10 to 327.131; and 327.14 to 327.28 and all rules, orders, stipulation agreements, settlements, compliance agreements, licenses, registrations, certificates, and permits adopted or issued by the department or under any other law now in force or later enacted for the preservation of public health may, in addition to provisions in other statutes, be enforced under this section.

1.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

1.20 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 147.037, is amended by adding a subdivision to
1.21 read:

1.22 Subd. 1b. **Limited license.** (a) The board must issue a limited license to any person who
1.23 satisfies the requirements of subdivision 1, paragraphs (a) to (c) and (e) to (g), and who:

2.1 (1) pursuant to a license or other authorization to practice, has practiced medicine, as
2.2 defined in section 147.081, subdivision 3, clauses (2) to (4), for at least 60 months in the
2.3 previous ten years outside of the United States;

2.4 (2) submits sufficient evidence of an offer to practice within the context of a collaborative
2.5 agreement within a hospital or clinical setting where the limited license holder and physicians
2.6 work together to provide patient care;

2.7 (3) provides services in a designated rural area or underserved urban community as
2.8 defined in section 144.1501; and

2.9 (4) submits two letters of recommendation in support of a limited license, which must
2.10 include one letter from a physician with whom the applicant previously worked and one
2.11 letter from an administrator of the hospital or clinical setting in which the applicant previously
2.12 worked. The letters of recommendation must attest to the applicant's good medical standing.

2.13 (b) For purposes of this subdivision, a person has satisfied the requirements of subdivision
2.14 1, paragraph (e), if the person has passed steps or levels one and two of the USMLE or the
2.15 COMLEX-USA with passing scores as recommended by the USMLE program or National
2.16 Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners within three attempts.

2.17 (c) A person issued a limited license under this subdivision must not be required to
2.18 present evidence satisfactory to the board of the completion of one year of graduate clinical
2.19 medical training in a program accredited by a national accrediting organization approved
2.20 by the board.

2.21 (d) An employer of a limited license holder must pay the limited license holder at least
2.22 an amount equivalent to a medical resident in a comparable field. The employer must carry
2.23 medical malpractice insurance covering a limited license holder for the duration of the
2.24 employment. The commissioner of health may issue a correction order under section 144.99,
2.25 subdivision 3, requiring an employer to comply with this paragraph. An employer must not
2.26 retaliate against or discipline an employee for raising a complaint or pursuing enforcement
2.27 relating to this paragraph.

2.28 (e) The board must issue a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine to a person
2.29 who holds a limited license issued pursuant to paragraph (a) and who has:

2.30 (1) held the limited license for two years and is in good standing to practice medicine
2.31 in this state;

2.32 (2) practiced for a minimum of 1,692 hours per year for each of the previous two years;

3.1 (3) submitted a letter of recommendation in support of a full and unrestricted license
3.2 containing all attestations required under paragraph (h) from any physician who participated
3.3 in the collaborative agreement; and

3.4 (4) has passed steps or levels one, two, and three of the USMLE or COMLEX-USA
3.5 with passing scores as recommended by the USMLE program or National Board of
3.6 Osteopathic Medical Examiners within three attempts.

3.7 (f) A limited license holder must submit to the board, every six months or upon request,
3.8 a statement certifying whether the person is still employed as a physician in this state and
3.9 whether the person has been subjected to professional discipline as a result of the person's
3.10 practice. The board may suspend or revoke a limited license if a majority of the board
3.11 determines that the licensee is no longer employed as a physician in this state by an employer.
3.12 The licensee must be granted an opportunity to be heard prior to the board's determination.
3.13 A licensee may change employers during the duration of the limited license if the licensee
3.14 has another offer of employment. In the event that a change of employment occurs, the
3.15 licensee must still work the number of hours required under paragraph (d), clause (2), to be
3.16 eligible for a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine.

3.17 (g) For purposes of this subdivision, "collaborative agreement" means a mutually agreed
3.18 upon plan for the overall working relationship and collaborative arrangement between a
3.19 holder of a limited license and one or more physicians licensed under this chapter that
3.20 designates the scope of services that can be provided to manage the care of patients. The
3.21 limited license holder and one of the collaborating physicians must have experience in
3.22 providing care to patients with the same or similar medical conditions. A limited license
3.23 holder may practice medicine without a collaborating physician physically present, but the
3.24 limited license holder and collaborating physicians must be able to easily contact each other
3.25 by radio, telephone, or other telecommunication device while the limited license holder
3.26 practices medicine. The limited license holder must have one-on-one practice reviews with
3.27 each collaborating physician, provided in person or through eye-to-eye electronic media
3.28 while maintaining visual contact, for at least two hours per week.

3.29 (h) At least one collaborating physician must submit a letter to the board, after the limited
3.30 license holder has practiced under the license for 12 months, attesting to the following:

3.31 (1) that the limited license holder has a basic understanding of federal and state laws
3.32 regarding the provision of health care, including but not limited to:

3.33 (i) medical licensing obligations and standards; and

3.34 (ii) the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Public Law 104-191;

4.1 (2) that the limited license holder has a basic understanding of documentation standards;

4.2 (3) that the limited license holder has a thorough understanding of which medications
4.3 are available and unavailable in the United States;

4.4 (4) that the limited license holder has a thorough understanding of American medical
4.5 standards of care;

4.6 (5) that the limited license holder has demonstrated mastery of each of the following:

4.7 (i) gathering a history and performing a physical exam;

4.8 (ii) developing and prioritizing a differential diagnosis following a clinical encounter
4.9 and selecting a working diagnosis;

4.10 (iii) recommending and interpreting common diagnostic and screening tests;

4.11 (iv) entering and discussing orders and prescriptions;

4.12 (v) providing an oral presentation of a clinical encounter;

4.13 (vi) giving a patient handover to transition care responsibly;

4.14 (vii) recognizing a patient requiring urgent care and initiating an evaluation; and

4.15 (viii) obtaining informed consent for tests, procedures, and treatments; and

4.16 (6) that the limited license holder is providing appropriate medical care.

4.17 (i) The board must not grant a license under this section unless the applicant possesses
4.18 federal immigration status that allows the applicant to practice as a physician in the United
4.19 States.

4.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.