

DIGEST

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SB 439 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Peacock

Proposed law authorizes the La. State Board of Medical Examiners, referred to hereafter as the "board", to develop, implement, and maintain a program that allows an individual who meets certain criteria as set forth by the board to be certified to practice medicine as a bridge year graduate physician. Provides that such certification shall be valid for one year and may be renewed for no more than two additional one-year periods upon application to the board.

Proposed law requires the board to provide for criteria for participation in the bridge year graduate physician program which, at a minimum, shall require the individual seeking certification to meet the following qualifications:

- (1) He is a graduate of an accredited medical school and is either a resident of Louisiana or trained for at least one year in an accredited medical school located in Louisiana.
- (2) He applied to, but was not accepted into, an accredited medical residency training program for the first year following medical school graduation.

Proposed law requires the board to provide for the prescriptive authority of a bridge year graduate physician including prescribing legend and certain controlled drugs.

Proposed law authorizes the board to suspend, terminate, or revoke a bridge year graduate physician certificate prior to the expiration of its one-year term for any reason provided by present law or present administrative rule for the termination of licenses, permits, registrations, or certificates issued by the board.

Proposed law stipulates that a bridge year graduate physician shall practice only under the direct supervision of a board-certified physician holding a license in good standing with the board.

Proposed law provides that after Jan. 1, 2023, healthcare services that are within a bridge year graduate physician's lawful scope of practice and are covered by a health insurance plan shall be reimbursed regardless of whether the services are performed by a physician or a bridge year graduate physician. Further provides that insurance reimbursement to a bridge year graduate physician shall not be less than the reasonable and customary amount of reimbursement that a licensed physician receives for an intermediate office visit or that a primary care physician receives for the same services.

Proposed law requires the La. State Board of Medical Examiners to consult and seek input from the La. State Medical Society, the La. Academy of Family Physicians, a community physician, a medical student who applied to, but was not accepted into, an accredited medical residency training program for the first year following medical school graduation, and a medical student during the development of the bridge year graduate physician program.

(Amends R.S. 37:1271(A) and 1285(A)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 22:1021.1 and R.S. 37:1310.11-1310.12)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Changes the occupational title from a licensed assistant physician to a certified bridge year graduate physician.
2. Provides for certification of bridge year graduate physicians.
3. Limits practice to rural or underserved areas.
4. Provides for teaching physicians.
5. Provides for a sunset date.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Technical amendment only.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill:

1. Delete proposed law relative to bridge year graduate physicians and add in lieu thereof the following provisions:
 - a. Authorization for the La. State Board of Medical Examiners to develop, implement, and maintain a program for certification of bridge year graduate physicians.
 - b. The term of, and provisions for renewal of, bridge year graduate physician certifications.
 - c. Criteria for participation in the bridge year graduate physician program.
 - d. Authorization for the La. State Board of Medical Examiners to provide for the prescriptive authority of bridge year graduate physicians.
 - e. Authorization for the La. State Board of Medical Examiners to suspend, terminate, or revoke bridge year graduate physician certifications for certain causes.
 - f. A requirement that an individual holding a certification to practice as a bridge year graduate physician shall practice only under the direct supervision of a board-certified physician holding a license in good standing.
2. Delete proposed law providing for termination of proposed law.
3. Require the La. State Board of Medical Examiners to consult and seek input from the La. State Medical Society, the La. Academy of Family Physicians, a community physician, a medical student who applied to, but was not accepted into, an accredited medical residency training program for the first year following medical school graduation, and a medical student during the development of the bridge year graduate physician program authorized by proposed law.
4. Make technical changes.