

SENATE BILL NO. 439

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1271(A) and the introductory paragraph of 1285(A) and to enact Part I-D of Chapter 15 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 37:1310.11 and 1310.12, relative to bridge year graduate physicians; to provide for the certification of bridge year graduate physicians; to provide for the powers and duties of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; to provide for compensation for services by bridge year graduate physicians; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:1271(A) and the introductory paragraph of 1285(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and Part I-D of Chapter 15 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 37:1310.11 and 1310.12, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1271. License to practice medicine or telemedicine required

A. No person shall practice medicine as defined ~~herein~~ **in this Part** until he possesses a duly recorded license issued ~~under~~ **pursuant to** this Part, ~~or~~ a permit or registration as provided for ~~herein~~ **in this Part, or a certificate issued pursuant to Part I-D of this Chapter.**

* * *

§1285. Causes for nonissuance; suspension; revocation; or the imposition of restrictions; fines; reinstatement; publication of action; stays

A. The board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any license or permit, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license, ~~or~~ **or certificate** issued pursuant to this Part ~~or Part I-D of this Chapter~~ for the following causes:

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PART I-D. BRIDGE YEAR GRADUATE PHYSICIANS**§1310.11. Bridge year graduate physicians**

A. The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, referred to hereafter in this Section as the "board", may develop, implement, and maintain a program that allows an individual who meets certain criteria as set forth by the board to be certified by the board to practice medicine as a bridge year graduate physician. 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.

B. The board shall provide for the 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.

(2) He applied to, but was not accepted into, an accredited medical residency training program for the first year following medical school graduation.

C. The board shall determine criteria for selection of applicants should the number of applicants exceed the available capacity of the program.

D. The board shall provide for the prescriptive authority of a bridge year graduate physician including prescribing legend and certain controlled drugs.

E. The board may suspend, terminate, or revoke a bridge year graduate physician certificate prior to the expiration of one year for any reason provided by law or board rule for the termination of licenses, permits, registrations, or certificates issued by the board, including but not limited to a violation of any provision of this Part or the rules promulgated by the board pursuant to this Part.

F. 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 with the board.

1 G. The services provided by an individual holding a certificate to
2 practice as a bridge year graduate physician shall be compensable in
3 accordance with customary medical billing practices.

4 H. A certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this Part
5 shall not confer any future right to full, unrestricted licensure.

6 §1310.12. Rulemaking

7 The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners shall adopt rules and
8 regulations for the administration of this Part as are necessary for the adequate
9 protection of the health and welfare of the citizens of this state.

10 Section 2. The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners shall consult and seek
11 input from the Louisiana State Medical Society, the Louisiana Academy of Family
12 Physicians, a community physician, a medical student who applied to, but was not accepted
13 into, an accredited medical residency training program for the first year following medical
14 school graduation, and a medical student during the development of the bridge year graduate
15 physician program authorized by the provisions of Section 1 of this Act.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____