

SB 476 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs professional licensing boards to obtain culturally responsive training, to publish guidance on pathways to licensure, and to issue limited licenses to international professionals in specified circumstances; directs the Oregon Department of Human services to administer grants to support international professionals to obtain Oregon licenses.

DETAILED SUMMARY:

- Defines “occupational or professional service” as a job requiring a license, certificate, or other authorization to work in Oregon.
- Defines a “professional licensing board” as any state agency or board that grants licenses, certifications, or other authorizations for professional services.
- Requires professional licensing boards to receive culturally responsive training approved by the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement.
- Requires professional licensing boards to create and publish guidance on pathways to licensure, certification, or other authorization for internationally educated individuals.
- Prohibits the Oregon Medical Board from setting a time limit for completing the United States Medical Licensing Examination.
- The Oregon Medical Board may issue a limited license to practice medicine under the supervision of a licensed physician to an individual who:
 - Passes Steps 1 and 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination.
 - Is certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates.
 - Submits fingerprints for a criminal background check.
- Establishes the Internationally Educated Workforce Reentry Grant Program within the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to provide grants to organizations that offer career guidance and support services to internationally educated professionals. Allocates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund to DHS for the 2025–2027 biennium to run the Grant Program.
- Specifies operative date of January 1, 2026, for certain provisions. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

Fiscal impact: Fiscal impact issued.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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- Creates a "provisional license" pathway for internationally trained physicians (instead of removing time limits on completing the USMLE exam), allowing physicians to practice under supervision for four years, after which they can apply for full licensure. Becomes operative January 1, 2027.
- Allows supervised practice at facilities with approved training programs, federally qualified health centers serving underserved populations, and other approved clinical locations.
- Requires internationally trained physicians to have:
 - A medical degree substantially similar to MD or DO
 - Comparable training to approved programs

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- Certification from the Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates
- At least 3 years of practice in another country
- An employment offer at a qualifying facility in Oregon
- Good moral character and good standing
- Adds reporting requirements for the Oregon Medical Board to track the outcomes of this provisional licensure program, operative January 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has 425,600 immigrant residents, or about 10 percent of the state's population, including approximately 17.5 percent of Oregon's STEM workers ([Link](#) to ODHS Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement).

For health care professions, requirements to practice in Oregon are established and regulated by various licensure board (e.g., Oregon State Board of Nursing, Oregon Medical Board, etc.). Licensure requirements may include satisfactory completion of a test and/or degree program. For immigrants and refugees who arrive in Oregon, ODHS provides access to job search and workforce training.

Senate Bill 476 requires licensing boards to obtain culturally responsive training and to publish guidance to support international health care professionals, allows limited licenses for certain professionals, and directs ODHS to administer grants.

Analysis prepared by Aleysa García Rivas.