

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2026

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1212

Chairperson: Senator Brian Hardin

Committee: Health and Human Services

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB1212 amends the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act and the Uniform Credentialing Act to create a structured licensure framework for internationally trained physicians.

LB1212 authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services, with approval of the Board of Medicine and Surgery, to issue a limited license for up to three years to an internationally trained physician who meets defined education, examination, certification, immigration, and practice experience requirements and who has an offer of employment from a participating health care entity. Practice under a limited license must occur under the supervision of a Nebraska-licensed physician, and the participating health care entity is responsible for supervision, assessment, evaluation, and malpractice coverage during the licensure period. A limited license may be renewed once, for a total period not to exceed six years.

LB1212 further provides for the issuance of a restricted license for up to three years to a physician who has successfully practiced under a limited license, completed a board-approved assessment and evaluation program, passed Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination, and satisfied additional board requirements not including completion of a residency program. A restricted license may be renewed one time and authorizes independent medical practice in a designated health profession shortage area.

The bill establishes a pathway by which an internationally trained physician may apply for an unrestricted license after completing a minimum of three years under a limited license and three years under a restricted license. During the period in which a physician holds a limited or restricted license, the bill requires periodic reporting to the Board of Medicine and Surgery regarding employment status, disciplinary matters, and assessment results, and requires notification of changes in employment.

LB1212 authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to take disciplinary action against limited or restricted licenses for misconduct, noncompliance, or unsatisfactory evaluations, including the authority to suspend a license on an interim basis when a participating health care entity determines that patient safety is jeopardized. The bill also provides for administrative appeal rights under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Finally, LB1212 harmonizes definitions within the Uniform Credentialing Act and repeals the original versions of the amended statutory sections.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Merv Riepe