

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SHB 1595

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C 138 L 11  
Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Regarding graduates of foreign medical schools.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Cody, Appleton and Green).

**House Committee on Health Care & Wellness**  
**Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care**

### **Background:**

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission (MQAC) is responsible for the licensure and discipline of physicians. A physician who graduates from a medical school within the United States or Canada must meet a variety of qualifications, including:

- graduation from medical school;
- passage of an examination; and
- completion of two years of post-graduate medical training.

The two years of post-graduate training (which includes internships, residencies, and fellowships) must be in a program acceptable to the MQAC. The MQAC only approves programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Graduates of foreign medical schools (other than those in Canada) must meet the same requirements as graduates from domestic schools, including the two years of post-graduate medical training. In addition, foreign medical school graduates must pass the examination given by the Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates and be able to read, write, speak, understand, and be understood in English.

### **Summary:**

A foreign medical school graduate is exempt from the two-year post-graduate medical training requirement if he or she has:

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- been admitted as a permanent immigrant to the United States as a person of exceptional ability in the sciences pursuant to the rules of the United States Department of Labor or been issued a permanent immigration visa;
- received multiple sclerosis certified specialist status from the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers; and
- successfully completed at least 24 months of training in multiple sclerosis at an educational institution in the United States with an accredited residency program in neurology or rehabilitation.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	95	1
Senate	48	0

**Effective:** July 22, 2011