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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5846**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Saldaña, Hasegawa, Randall, Nguyen, Wilson, C., Keiser, Das, Cleveland, and Dhingra)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to the integration of international medical  
2 graduates into Washington's health care delivery system; creating new  
3 sections; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a shortage  
6 of primary care health care providers has created significant  
7 provider access issues in Washington.

8 (2) The legislature further finds that international medical  
9 graduates residing in the state could provide increased access to  
10 primary care for state residents, but international medical graduates  
11 routinely face barriers to practice.

12 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to establish the  
13 international medical graduate work group to study barriers to  
14 practice and make recommendations on how the state can implement an  
15 international medical graduate assistance program by January 1, 2022,  
16 to assist international medical graduates in integrating into the  
17 Washington health care delivery system.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts  
19 appropriated for this specific purpose, the international medical

1 graduate work group is established. The work group membership must  
2 consist of the following members appointed by the governor:

3 (a) A representative from the medical quality assurance  
4 commission;

5 (b) A representative from the department of health, health  
6 systems quality assurance division;

7 (c) A representative from the University of Washington school of  
8 medicine graduate medical education program;

9 (d) A representative from the Washington State University Elson  
10 S. Floyd college of medicine graduate medical education program;

11 (e) A representative from the Pacific Northwest University of  
12 Health Sciences college of osteopathic medicine graduate medical  
13 education program;

14 (f) A representative from a statewide association representing  
15 physicians;

16 (g) A representative from the Washington state family medicine  
17 residency network;

18 (h) A representative from a primary care health care employer in  
19 a rural or underserved area of Washington;

20 (i) A representative from a health carrier offering coverage in a  
21 rural or underserved area of Washington;

22 (j) A licensed physician with experience working with  
23 international medical graduates;

24 (k) A representative from an organization specializing in refugee  
25 advocacy in Washington;

26 (l) A representative from an organization serving refugee  
27 physicians and international medical graduates;

28 (m) A representative from an organization offering counseling and  
29 educational programs to internationally trained health professionals;

30 (n) A representative from an organization representing community  
31 and migrant health centers; and

32 (o) At least two international medical graduates.

33 (2) The work group must:

34 (a) Develop strategies and recommendations for reducing barriers  
35 for international medical graduates obtaining residency positions in  
36 Washington, including preresidency training;

37 (b) Make recommendations for the appropriate number of residency  
38 positions to be designated for international medical graduates, and  
39 the locations and specialties of those positions; and

1           (c)    Make    recommendations    on    the    postresidency    service  
2 requirements for international medical graduates who graduate from a  
3 designated residency position.

4           (3)   Staff support for the work group must be provided by the  
5 medical quality assurance commission.

6           (4)   The work group must submit a report to the governor and the  
7 legislature with its recommendations by June 30, 2020.

8           (5)   This section expires June 30, 2020.

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