

## MEMORANDUM

TO: House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Lauren Layman, General Counsel

DATE: April 13, 2026

SUBJECT: S.142 - An act relating to a pathway to licensure for internationally trained physicians and medical graduates

The Department of Health is very supportive of S. 142 and of creating a process for internationally trained physicians (ITPs) to obtain a license in Vermont. We are also committed to establishing and implementing a process that ensures public safety and uses state and individual resources efficiently and effectively.

The Department is asking to simplify S. 142 so the Board of Medical Practice and the Department of Health can incorporate lessons learned from other states into the licensing process and can adapt the process as this field evolves.

Through early discussions with other states and third-party organizations, the Department has learned that states are using a wide variety of approaches to implement laws similar to S. 142 and are consistently experiencing challenges with certain elements of the licensing process (e.g., reviewing and evaluating post-graduate medical residency training, establishing and monitoring the assessment and evaluation programs for different types of health care providers). With less specificity in the statute, the Department and Board will be able to modify processes to address these concerns.

The Department is committed to meeting the timelines in the current version of S. 142. Moreover, we will provide a study in January 2027, which will include the Department's and Board's recommendations for the licensing process. The Legislature can determine at that time whether the statutes governing the process need to be more specific or if rulemaking will sufficiently address concerns.





The Department and Board will also use the standards in S. 142 and those in other state laws as the starting point for the study and licensing process recommendations. Rather than duplicate work, our intent is to assess the impacts of these approaches and, if needed, propose modified approaches based on the outcomes and challenges observed in other states.

Licensing physicians in a manner that protects public safety and ensures competency is a complex and nuanced process. The Department is committed to establishing a pathway for licensure for internationally trained physicians. We want to make sure we do so in a conscientious, intentional, and thoughtful manner using the most current knowledge that has been gained by our state partners. The proposed amendment would accomplish this while still providing a pathway to licensure within the specified timeframe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

