

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 879 (HB 1160)

2026 Regular Session

Echols

New law creates a restricted rural physician license for international medical graduates who meet certain requirements.

New law authorizes the La. St. Board of Medical Examiners (board) to issue a restricted rural physician license to certain international medical graduates.

New law provides eligibility requirements, including medical education equivalency, passage of licensing examinations, certification by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates or equivalent, clinical experience, background check, and English proficiency.

New law requires licensees to practice only in designated rural or medically underserved areas or at approved facilities, and requires compliance with annual renewal requirements.

New law requires a minimum two-year supervision period under a qualified supervising physician and authorizes the board to allow unsupervised practice upon successful completion of the supervision period.

New law provides limitations on the restricted license and provides for disciplinary action for violations.

New law authorizes eligibility for a full and unrestricted license after five years of continuous practice in a rural or medically underserved area, subject to specified conditions.

New law requires the board to promulgate rules and regulations to implement new law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 37:1275.3)