

Fifty-fifth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2122

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the State Board of Medical Examiners)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 43-17-02 and sections
2 43-17-26.1 and 43-17-27.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to persons exempt from
3 licensure as a physician, physician license renewals and late fees, and continuing education for
4 physicians; and to amend and reenact section 43-17-18 of the North Dakota Century Code,
5 relating to license requirements for physicians.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 43-17-02 of the North Dakota Century Code
8 is created and enacted as follows:

9 A person rendering fluoroscopy services as a radiologic technologist if the service
10 is rendered under the supervision, control, and responsibility of a licensed
11 physician and provided that the state board of medical examiners prescribes rules
12 governing the conduct and supervision of radiologic technologists who provide
13 those services.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-17-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **~~43-17-18. Qualifications of applicant for license~~ License requirements.** ~~An~~
17 ~~applicant for a license to practice medicine shall present evidence satisfactory to the board of~~
18 ~~the following qualifications:~~

19 4. ~~Possession of the degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy from a~~
20 ~~medical school located in the United States, its possessions or territories, or~~
21 ~~Canada, approved by the board or by an accrediting body approved by the board~~
22 ~~at the time the degree was conferred;~~

- 1 2. ~~If the applicant is the graduate of a reputable medical or osteopathic college in the~~
2 ~~United States or Canada, successful completion of one year of postgraduate~~
3 ~~training approved by the board or by an accrediting body approved by the board;~~
4 3. ~~If the applicant is a graduate of a medical or osteopathic college that has not been~~
5 ~~approved by the board or accredited by an accrediting body approved by the board~~
6 ~~at the time the degree or its equivalent was conferred, a certificate issued by the~~
7 ~~educational council for foreign medical graduates, proficiency in writing and~~
8 ~~speaking English, and the successful completion of three years of postgraduate~~
9 ~~training in a program approved by the board or by an accrediting body approved by~~
10 ~~the board. However, the board may license an applicant with one year of~~
11 ~~residency training in the United States or Canada who has been approved for~~
12 ~~faculty status in psychiatry by the university of North Dakota and its medical~~
13 ~~school. The board may also grant a special license to an applicant who is a~~
14 ~~graduate of a foreign medical school, has successfully completed one year of~~
15 ~~approved postgraduate training in the United States or Canada, and is enrolled in a~~
16 ~~residency program in this state for the purpose of practicing medicine only within~~
17 ~~the scope of the residency training program. If an applicant has not completed~~
18 ~~three years of postgraduate training in a program approved by the board or by an~~
19 ~~accrediting body approved by the board, but has met all other licensing~~
20 ~~requirements and has successfully completed one year of postgraduate training in~~
21 ~~the United States or Canada in a program approved by the board, and if the board~~
22 ~~finds that the applicant has other professional experience and training that is~~
23 ~~substantially equivalent to the second and third year of postgraduate training, then~~
24 ~~the applicant may be deemed eligible for licensure. Three years of postgraduate~~
25 ~~training in the United Kingdom must be considered to be equivalent to one year of~~
26 ~~postgraduate training in the United States or Canada. The board is granted broad~~
27 ~~discretion in determining whether to apply this exception to the normal licensing~~
28 ~~requirements;~~
29 1. General - Every applicant for licensure shall file a written application on forms
30 provided by the board, showing to the board's satisfaction that the applicant is of
31 good moral character and satisfies all of the requirements of this chapter including:

- 4-
 - a. Successful completion of a medical licensure examination satisfactory to the board;
 - 5-
 - b. Physical, mental, and professional capability for the practice of medicine in a manner acceptable ~~by~~ to the board; and
 - 6-
 - c. A history free of any finding by the board, any other state medical licensure board, or any court of competent jurisdiction of the commission of any act ~~which~~ that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this chapter; the board, ~~in its discretion~~, may modify this restriction for cause.
2. Graduates of United States and Canadian schools.
- a. An applicant who is a graduate of an approved medical or osteopathic school located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, shall present evidence, satisfactory to the board, that the applicant has been awarded a degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy from a medical school located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, approved by the board or by an accrediting body approved by the board at the time the degree was conferred.
 - b. An applicant who is a graduate of an approved medical or osteopathic school located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, must present evidence, satisfactory to the board, that the applicant has successfully completed one year of postgraduate training in the United States or Canada in a program approved by the board or by an accrediting body approved by the board.
3. Graduates of international schools.
- a. An applicant who is a graduate of a medical school not located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, shall present evidence, satisfactory to the board, that the applicant possesses the degree of doctor of medicine or a board-approved equivalent based on satisfactory completion of educational programs acceptable to the board. Graduates of osteopathic schools located outside the United States are not eligible for licensure.
 - b. An applicant who has graduated from a medical school not located in the United States, its possessions, territories, or Canada, must present evidence,

1 satisfactory to the board, that the applicant has successfully completed three
2 years of postgraduate training in a program located in the United States, its
3 possessions, territories, or Canada, and accredited by a national accrediting
4 organization approved by the board or other graduate training approved in
5 advance by the board as meeting standards similar to those of a national
6 accrediting organization. However, if such an applicant has not completed
7 three years of postgraduate training in a program approved by the board or by
8 an accrediting body approved by the board, but has met all other licensing
9 requirements and has successfully completed one year of postgraduate
10 training in the United States or Canada in a program approved by the board,
11 and if the board finds that the applicant has other professional experience and
12 training that is substantially equivalent to the second and third year of
13 postgraduate training, then the applicant may be deemed eligible for
14 licensure. The board is granted broad discretion in determining whether to
15 apply this exception to the normal licensing requirements. An applicant
16 seeking licensure under this exception must present evidence satisfactory to
17 the board that:

- 18 (1) The applicant is certified by a specialty board recognized by the
19 American board of medical specialties or by a specialty board
20 recognized by the royal college of physicians and surgeons of Canada;
21 or
22 (2) The applicant has passed the special purpose examination developed
23 by the federation of state medical boards of the United States.

- 24 c. The applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the board that the
25 applicant has been awarded a certificate by the educational council for foreign
26 medical graduates. The board may adopt rules establishing specific
27 exceptions to this requirement.
28 d. The applicant has a working ability in the English language sufficient to
29 communicate with patients and physicians and to engage in the practice of
30 medicine.

- 1 4. Special license - The board may grant a special license to an applicant who is a
2 graduate of an international medical school if that applicant has met all
3 requirements for licensure except those pertaining to postgraduate training if the
4 applicant has successfully completed one year of approved postgraduate training
5 in the United States or Canada, and is enrolled in a residency program in this state.
6 This special license is valid only for the purpose of practicing medicine within the
7 scope of the residency training program.

8 **SECTION 3.** Section 43-17-26.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
9 enacted as follows:

10 **43-17-26.1. License renewals - Late fees.** A physician seeking to renew the annual
11 registration who has failed to complete the annual registration process within the time specified
12 by the state board of medical examiners must be assessed a fee equal to three times the
13 normal annual registration fee, in addition to such other penalties as are authorized by law, if
14 that physician is found to have been practicing medicine in this state after the physician's
15 license expired. A physician who is not found to have been practicing medicine in this state
16 may renew a license upon payment of the arrearage and meeting the other requirements of the
17 board. However, a physician whose license lapsed more than three years before that physician
18 petitioned the board for reinstatement must submit a new application for licensure, whether or
19 not that physician has practiced medicine in this state since the physician's license was last
20 current.

21 **SECTION 4.** Section 43-17-27.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
22 enacted as follows:

23 **43-17-27.1. Continuing education requirements.**

- 24 1. The board shall promote a high degree of competence in the practice of medicine
25 by establishing rules requiring every physician licensed in the state to fulfill
26 continuing education requirements. Compliance with these rules must be
27 documented at such times and in such manner as is required by the board.
28 2. Before a license may be renewed, the licensee shall submit evidence to the board
29 establishing that all continuing education requirements prescribed by the rules
30 adopted by the board have been met.

- 1 3. The board may exempt a physician from the requirements of this section in
2 accordance with rules adopted by the board.