

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Vice Chair:
House Finance Committee

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for;
Department of Public Safety
Department of Law



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-4958
Fax: (907) 465-4928

Interim:
PO Box 464
Chugiak, AK 99567

REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZE

Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

House Bill 102

Foreign Medical School Graduates

"An act relating to the licensure of foreign medical graduates; and providing for an effective date."

There is a chronic shortage of physicians in Alaska. This shortage is acute, even in Anchorage, and in the specialty fields of general internal medicine, psychiatry, and general surgery, to name a few.

An option to help ease this shortage is to provide the State Medical Board discretion in defining the training and qualifications required of licensure for foreign medical school graduates. Currently, the State Medical Board has no discretion. An increase in qualified, well trained physicians would help Alaskans receive the care they need when they need it.

HB 102 provides the State Medical Board with the authority to adopt regulations that provide for alternatives to the current inflexible licensing requirements.

The provisions of HB 102:

- Provide the mechanism for the State Medical Board to adopt competency requirements for foreign medical school graduates.
- In lieu of the two year U.S. residency training requirement, the State Medical Board is allowed to adopt alternative requirements such as licensure in another state with a history of active practice for at least 3 years or being board certified in a certain specialty area of practice.

I ask for your consideration and support of HB 102 to help alleviate the shortage of physicians in Alaska.

DISTRICT 16

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