

Subject J-1 visa waiver program recommendation

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Overview

Under the J-1 visa waiver program administered by the U.S. State Department, a foreign medical graduate may seek a waiver for the requirement that a foreign medical graduate with a J-1 visa must return to the graduate's home country for two years at the end of medical study before applying for authorization to work in the United States. Waiver recipients agree to work in underserved areas. The commissioner of health recommends up to 30 physicians per year for the waiver program, and one requirement for applying is that the applicant demonstrates that the graduate passed steps 1, 2, and 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). This bill requires the commissioner of health to accept evidence of holding an H-1B visa instead of passage of steps 1, 2, and 3 of the USMLE. An H-1B visa is a nonimmigration visa for individuals who work in a specialty occupation, provide services of exceptional merit and ability relating to a Department of Defense project, or work as a fashion model.

Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | <p>Direction to commissioner of health; J-1 visa waiver program recommendation.</p> <p>In administering the program to issue recommendations for the J-1 visa waiver program, requires the commissioner of health to allow an applicant to submit evidence that the foreign medical graduate for whom a waiver is sought holds a current H-1B visa, instead of evidence that the foreign medical graduate passed steps 1, 2, and 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination.</p> |