

Talking Points: Physician Workforce Act

The Physician Workforce Act (PWA) (SB 155 / HB 243) would increase access to care, boost recruitment and retention of physicians, and help fill physician workforce shortages.

The PWA would:

- **Cut Red Tape and Remove Unnecessary Barriers.** The bill would make it easier for physicians who practice out of state to move to Alabama by removing a requirement for an additional, in-person examination. Currently, if a physician did not get his/her Alabama license within 10 years of finishing training and is not currently board-certified, then that physician cannot be licensed without passing another exam.
- **Better Utilize the State's Existing Physician Workforce.** By allowing international medical graduates to apply for a medical license a full year earlier during their training, the legislation would help physician recruitment and allow international medical graduates to get to work sooner, filling overnight shifts in hospitals or busy clinics. The duration of training is unchanged.
- **Create an Apprenticeship-like Program.** Alabama would join 10 other states that permit graduate physicians to increase their clinical knowledge and skills under the supervision of licensed physicians as they prepare to reapply to residency positions, while at the same time help to fill clinical staff shortages. The permits would require on-site supervision of graduate physicians by a fully-licensed doctor, and be limited to a maximum of two years.