

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 353

Session of
1988

INTRODUCED BY STABACK, LLOYD, TIGUE AND HUTCHINSON,
NOVEMBER 22, 1988

ADOPTED IN HOUSE, NOVEMBER 22, 1988

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the National Board of Medical Examiners and the
2 Educational Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates to
3 implement for June 1989 a single medical knowledge
4 examination for all graduate medical education candidates.

5 WHEREAS, Graduates of medical schools must pass an
6 examination to enter into graduate medical education; and

7 WHEREAS, There now exists a dual examination system for
8 graduates of foreign medical schools and for graduates of United
9 States and Canadian schools; and

10 WHEREAS, Graduates of foreign medical schools must pass the
11 Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in Medical Sciences
12 (FMGEMS) in order to be certified by the Educational Commission
13 on Foreign Medical Graduates and, therefore, be eligible to
14 qualify for graduate medical education; and

15 WHEREAS, Graduates of United States and Canadian medical
16 schools must pass Part I and Part II of the National Board of
17 Medical Examiners' examinations (NBME I and II) to be eligible
18 for graduate medical education; and

19 WHEREAS, Graduates of foreign medical schools have charged

1 that the FMGEMS is a more difficult examination than the
2 National Boards and have lobbied for the right to take the same
3 examination as United States and Canadian medical school
4 graduates; and

5 WHEREAS, Congress established the Council on Graduate Medical
6 Education to advise and make recommendations to the Secretary of
7 Health and Human Services and Congress on issues related to
8 physician supply and graduate medical education; and

9 WHEREAS, A subcommittee of the Council on Graduate Medical
10 Education held a public hearing on November 19 through 20, 1987;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Several organizations testified before the
13 subcommittee as to their belief that the dual system of testing
14 graduates of foreign and accredited medical schools was
15 essentially discriminatory; and

16 WHEREAS, The Council on Graduate Medical Education in its
17 report issued July 1, 1988, to the Department of Health and
18 Human Services and to the United States Congress recommended
19 that a "single medical knowledge examination for all graduate
20 medical candidates should be implemented as soon as possible";
21 and

22 WHEREAS, A bill introduced by Assemblyman A. Feldman
23 requiring the New York State Medical Board to recognize only a
24 singular standardized examination for graduate medical education
25 has passed the Assembly chamber; and

26 WHEREAS, The National Board of Medical Examiners has begun
27 the process to implement a procedure to allow foreign medical
28 school graduates to take the National Board Examination Part I
29 and Part II but no definitive date has been set; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request the

1 National Board of Medical Examiners and the Educational
2 Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates to implement a singular
3 medical knowledge examination for foreign medical school
4 graduates for the June 1989 examination; and be it further
5 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
6 the National Board of Medical Examiners and the Educational
7 Commission on Foreign Medical Graduates.