

No. 273

AN ACT

HB 1976

Amending the act of July 20, 1974 (P.L.551, No.190), entitled "An act relating to the right to practice medicine and surgery in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and establishing means and methods whereby the right to practice medicine and surgery and any of its branches and limited right to practice medically related acts may be obtained, and exemptions therefrom; imposing powers and duties on the State Board of Medical Education and Licensure; providing for appropriation of board fees to carry out the provisions thereof, and for the granting, revocation and suspension of licenses; providing penalties for violations; and making repeals," providing for licensure of graduates of foreign medical schools upon completion of certain requirements and providing for the establishment of programs of clinical training in hospitals and making an appropriation.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of July 20, 1974 (P.L.551, No.190), known as the "Medical Practice Act of 1974," is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 6.1. Graduates of Foreign Medical Schools.—(a) A document granted by a medical school located outside the United States, which is listed by the World Health Organization, issued after the completion of all the formal requirements of the foreign medical school except internship and social service, upon certification by the medical school in which the training was received of satisfactory completion by the person to whom the document was issued of the requirements listed in this section, shall qualify a person for participation in "fifth pathway" programs as hereinafter defined. Participating medical schools may require such additional evidence of student fitness for admission into "fifth pathway" programs as they deem necessary.

(b) The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Education shall fund adequate programs of clinical training for students in "fifth pathway" programs established by medical schools in Pennsylvania as prescribed by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association in teaching hospitals affiliated with medical schools to meet the needs of all those United States of America citizens who were legal residents of Pennsylvania immediately prior to entering a foreign medical school, provided that the requirements of said programs shall be equivalent to those recommended by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association.

(c) The Department of Education may, before funding any program of clinical training established pursuant to subsection (b), require each medical school to submit such information as the department deems necessary to determine that each medical school complies with all the guidelines established for clinical training programs by the Council on

Medical Education of the American Medical Association. Successful completion by the student of the requirements of the "fifth pathway" program shall be deemed the equivalent of a degree of doctor of medicine for purposes of licensing and practice as a physician in the Commonwealth.

Section 2. The sum of \$200,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary is specifically appropriated to the Department of Education for the fiscal year July 1, 1977 to June 30, 1978 for payment to qualified medical schools at a rate of \$7,500 per student who is a citizen of the United States of America and a legal resident of Pennsylvania immediately prior to entering a foreign medical school, for a one year "fifth pathway" program. In the event a medical school requires a program of more than one year's duration for one or more of its "fifth pathway" students, it shall be the responsibility of the student and/or medical school to assume all further costs.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1977.

APPROVED—The 2nd day of December, A. D. 1976.

MILTON J. SHAPP