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- 01/08/2019 Received by Lt. Gov & Speaker 05/08/2019

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S 01/08/2019 Referred to Committee

H 02/27/2019 Resolution Introduced to Approve 4121

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Document No. 4853

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION**

**BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

CHAPTER 81

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 40‑1‑70, 40‑47‑10, and 40‑47‑110

81‑80. Requirements to Take Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

**Synopsis:**

The South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners proposes to amend R.81‑80 to delete the requirement that the State Board of Medical Examiners of South Carolina administer Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

A Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on August 24, 2018.

**Instructions:**

Replace regulation as shown below. All other items and sections remain unchanged.

**Text:**

ARTICLE 8

Requirements for the Written Examination (FLEX)

81‑80. Requirements to Take Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

Applicants wishing to take Step 3 of the USMLE must satisfy the following requirements.

A. Educational Requirements:

(1) Graduation from medical school located in the United States, its territories or possessions, or Canada which is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or other accrediting body approved by the Board, or

(2) Graduation from a school of osteopathic medicine located in the United States, its territories or possessions, or Canada accredited by the American Osteopathic Association or other accredited body approved by the Board, or

(3) Graduation from a medical school located outside the United States or Canada.

(a) Graduates of medical schools located outside of the United States of Canada must possess a Standard Certificate from the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), or

(b) Document successful completion of a Fifth Pathway program and be currently Board certified by a Specialty Board recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association.

B. Prior Examination Requirements:

(1) To be eligible to take Step 3 of the USMLE, an applicant must document successful completion of Step 1 and Step 2 of the USMLE, (A score of 75 or better shall be considered a passing score on each Step), or

(2) Document successful completion of the combination of the examinations of the National Board of Medical Examiners, Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX) and USMLE acceptable to the Composite Committee of the USMLE and approved by the Board.

C. Other Requirements:

(1) To be eligible to take Step 3 of the USMLE in South Carolina, an applicant must

(a) possess a current South Carolina license, or

(b) document acceptance into a post‑graduate residency training program in South Carolina, or

(c) document satisfaction of all other requirements for permanent license but for successful completion of Step 3 of the USMLE.

(2) To be eligible to take Step 3 of the USMLE, an applicant must file a completed application for Step 3, with the required fee, prior to the application deadline established by the Board. The non‑refundable fee for Step 3 of the USMLE shall not exceed $600.

(3) A score of 75 or better shall be considered a passing score on Step 3.

(4) In order to be eligible to apply for permanent licensure, an applicant must complete all steps of the USMLE within seven years.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

There will be no cost incurred by the State or any of its political subdivisions for these regulations.

**Statement of Rationale:**

The South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners proposes to amend R.81‑80 to delete the requirement that the State Board of Medical Examiners of South Carolina shall administer Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination.