To: Attorney General Jeff Landry

 Attn: Department of Justice, Occupational Licensing Review Program

From: Dr. Vincent A. Culotta, Jr.

 Executive Director, Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners

Date: June 16, 2025

Subject: Bridge Year

The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners has the board proposes to add a new provision, LAC 46:XLV.398.

To facilitate the Department of Justice’s review of the proposed rule, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners provides answers to the following questions.

1. Describe any relevant factual background to the occupational regulation and the purpose of the occupational regulation?

Act 757 of the 2022 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature enacted new provisions codified as R.S. 37:1310.11 and 1310.12 authorizing the Board to develop, implement, and maintain a bridge year graduate physician program for graduates of an accredited medical school who applied to but were not accepted into an accredited residency training program for the first year following medical school graduation. The rule the board proposes to add as LAC 46:XLV.398 sets standards for a bridge year graduate physician certificate, including requiring direct supervision by a board-certified physician who has completed training as a training physician. The proposed amendment to LAC 46XLV.303 is to add the definitions of “bridge year graduate physician” and “training physician”.

2. Is the occupational regulation within the scope of the occupational licensing board’s general authority to regulate in a given occupation or industry? If so, identify the law that provides the authority for the rule and describe how the occupational regulation is within the scope.

Yes, these rules we promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:3001-3014, 37:1270, and 37:1281.

3. Check all of the following that apply as reasons the occupational regulation is subject to review

[x] Creates a barrier to market competition

[] Fixes prices, limits price competition, or results in high prices for a product or service provided by or to a license holder.

[X] Reduces competition or excludes present or potential competitors from the occupation regulated by the board

[] Limits output or supply in this state of any good or service provided by the members of the regulated occupation.

[] Reduces the number of providers that can serve a particular set of customers

[] Other activity (please describe)

4. Identify the clearly articulated state policy (e.g., health, safety, welfare, or consumer protection) in state statute, or any supporting evidence of the harm the action/proposed action is intended to protect against?

These regulations are intended to protect the public’s health and welfare in that graduates who did not match into residency will have access to training with established physicians, continuing their education, and helping to ensure a robust medical community.

5. Do any less restrictive alternatives to the occupational regulation exist for addressing the same harm? If so, include a comparison of the occupational regulation to the alternatives and a justification for not pursuing a less restrictive alternative. If no less restrictive alternatives exist, explain why.

 These regulations are the least restrictive.

6. Describe the process that the occupational licensing board followed in developing the proposed rule, including any public hearings held, studies conducted, and data collected or analyzed.

All meetings complied with the Open Meetings Law, offering proper notice, public comment, and records of the meetings. The Bridge Year physician rule changes went before the LSBME at a public meeting where the board adopted the proposed rule change.

7. Does the occupational regulation relate to a matter on which there is pending litigation or a final court order?

 No.

8. Please identify the board members voting in favor of this rule, and state whether the member is an active market participant.

The LSBME is composed of the following members: Roderick V. Clark, MD, MBA, Kim S. Sport, JD, Rita Y. Horton, MD, Juzar Ali, MD, Wyche T. Coleman, Jr., MD, Patrick T. O'Neill, MD, James A. Taylor, Jr., MD, Terrie R. Thomas, MD, Leonard Weather, Jr., MD, R.Ph, Cheryl Hayes Williams, MD.

The vote to approve the rule change was unanimous.

9. Is there anything else that the occupational licensing board would like the Department to know about the proposed rule?