

HOUSE No. 2272

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Aaron L. Saunders

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to physician licensure.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Aaron L. Saunders</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 2272

By Representative Saunders of Belchertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2272) of Aaron L. Saunders relative to physician licensure. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to physician licensure.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive
2 office of health and human services shall establish a task force on an interstate medical licensure
3 compact and licensure reciprocity. The task force shall consist of: the secretary of the executive
4 office of health and human services or a designee who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of
5 the department of public health or a designee; the commissioner of the department of mental
6 health or a designee; the executive director of the board of registration in medicine or a designee;
7 the Undersecretary of the office of consumer affairs and business regulation or a designee; a
8 representative from the health policy commission; a representative from the Massachusetts
9 Medical Society; a representative from the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association; and a
10 representative from the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

11 b) The task force shall conduct an analysis and issue a report evaluating the
12 commonwealth’s options to facilitate appropriate interstate medical practice and the practice of
13 telemedicine including the potential entry into an interstate medical licensure compact or other

14 reciprocity agreement. The analysis and report shall include but not be limited to: (i) an analysis
15 of physician job vacancies in the commonwealth broken down by practice specialization and
16 projected vacancies based on the demographics of the commonwealth’s physician workforce and
17 medical school graduate retention rates; (ii) an analysis of other states’ entry into the interstate
18 medical licensure compact and any impact on quality of care resulting from entry; (iii) an
19 analysis of the ability of physicians to provide follow-up care across state lines, including via
20 telehealth; (iv) an analysis of registration models for providers who may provide care for patients
21 via telehealth with the provider located in one state and the patient located in another state,
22 provided that said analysis would include delineation of provider responsibilities for registration
23 and reporting to state professional licensure boards; (v) an analysis of impacts to health care
24 quality, cost and access resulting from other states’ entry into a medical licensure compact, as
25 well as anticipated impacts to health care quality, cost and access associated with entry into an
26 interstate medical licensure compact; (vi) evaluations of barriers and solutions regarding
27 prescribing across state lines; (vii) evaluations of the feasibility of a regional reciprocity
28 agreement allowing telemedicine across state lines both for existing patient provider
29 relationships and/or the establishment of new relationships; (viii) evaluations of the feasibility of
30 the establishment of interstate proxy credentialing; and (ix) recommendations regarding the
31 commonwealth’s entry into an interstate physician licensure compact or other licensure
32 reciprocity agreements.

33 (c) The task force shall submit its recommendations to the governor and the clerks of the
34 house of representatives and the senate not later than October 1, 2023