Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted on Second Reading in the House of Introduction

LLS NO. 24-0286.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 24-1153

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Garcia and Willford, Bacon, Brown, Jodeh, Joseph, Mabrey, Parenti, Story

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cutter and Jaquez Lewis,

House Committees Health & Human Services Finance Appropriations

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS** FOR 102 PHYSICIANS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill establishes a continuing medical education requirement (CME) for physicians licensed in this state.

To meet the CME requirement, a physician must complete 40 credit hours of CME (CME credit hours) in the 24 months preceding the renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation of the physician's medical license in topics selected by the physician and also in topics specified in the bill.

Amended 2nd Reading April 24, 2024 HOUSE

The Colorado medical board (board) shall approve the type and sponsors of programs or activities that qualify for CME credit hours pursuant to criteria specified in the bill.

To verify compliance with the CME requirement, the physician shall affirm on the license renewal form submitted to the board that the physician has complied with the CME requirement. The board is also authorized to audit up to 5% of physician renewals annually and to require that the physician submit proof of the CME programs completed and the CME credit hours awarded. A physician's failure to comply with the CME requirement or to submit proof to the board during a board audit constitutes unprofessional conduct. If the physician fails to comply with the CME requirement, the physician's license is inactive until reinstated by the board.

The board may adopt rules to implement the CME requirement.

The director of the division of professions and occupations in the department of regulatory agencies shall increase existing fees on physician licensure renewals to cover any additional costs associated with implementing the CME requirement.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

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SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-130, amend

3 (1) and (2)(a); **repeal** (3); and **add** (5) and (6) as follows:

4 12-240-130. Renewal, reinstatement, reactivation 5 delinquency - fees - questionnaire. (1) All licenses issued pursuant to 6 this article 240 are subject to the renewal, expiration, reinstatement, and 7 delinquency fee provisions specified in section 12-20-202 (1) and (2). 8 The director shall increase renewal fees consistent with section 12-30-105 9 (4) to fund COVER the division's costs in administering and staffing the nurse-physician advisory task force for Colorado health care created in 10 11 section 12-30-105 (1) AND ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH 12 IMPLEMENTING CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICIANS 13 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-240-130.5. A person whose license has expired 14 shall be IS subject to the penalties provided in this article 240 or section 15 12-20-202 (1).

1 (2) (a) The board shall design a questionnaire to accompany the 2 renewal form for the purpose of determining whether a licensee has acted 3 in violation of this article 240, or has been disciplined for any action that 4 might be considered a violation of this article 240 or that might make the 5 licensee unfit to practice medicine with reasonable care and safety. The 6 board shall include on the questionnaire a question regarding whether: 7 (I) The licensee has complied with section 12-30-111; and 8 (II) The licensee is in compliance with section 12-280-403(2)(a)9 and is aware of the penalties for failing to comply with that section; 10 (III) THE LICENSEE IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 12-30-114; 11 AND 12 (IV) THE LICENSEE IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 12-240-130.5 13 RELATING TO REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION AND IS AWARE 14 OF THE PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THAT SECTION. 15 (3) Applicants for relicensure shall not be required to attend and 16 complete continuing medical education programs, except as directed by 17 the board to correct deficiencies of training or education as directed under 18 section 12-240-125 (5)(c)(III)(B). 19 (5) ON AND AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2022, AS A CONDITION OF 20 RENEWAL, REINSTATEMENT, OR REACTIVATION OF A LICENSE, EACH 21 LICENSEE OR APPLICANT SHALL ATTEST THAT THE LICENSEE OR APPLICANT 22 IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 12-30-114 AND THAT THE LICENSEE OR 23 APPLICANT IS AWARE OF THE PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THAT 24 SECTION. 25 (6) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026, AS A CONDITION OF 26 RENEWAL, REINSTATEMENT, OR REACTIVATION OF A LICENSE, EACH

27 LICENSEE OR APPLICANT SHALL ATTEST THAT THE LICENSEE OR APPLICANT

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IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 12-240-130.5 AND THAT THE LICENSEE
 OR APPLICANT IS AWARE OF THE PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH
 THAT SECTION.

4 SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-106, amend
5 (1)(b) and (1)(c); and add (1)(d) as follows:

6 **12-240-106.** Powers and duties of board - limitation on 7 authority - rules. (1) In addition to all other powers and duties conferred 8 and imposed upon the board by this article 240, the board has the 9 following powers and duties to:

(b) Make investigations, hold hearings, and take evidence in
accordance with section 12-20-403 in all matters relating to the exercise
and performance of the powers and duties vested in the board; and

(c) Aid law enforcement in the enforcement of this article 240 and
in the prosecution of all persons, firms, associations, or corporations
charged with the violation of any of its provisions; AND

16 (d) ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
17 12-240-130.5 TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUING
18 MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR PHYSICIANS.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-121, add
(1)(ii) as follows:

21 12-240-121. Unprofessional conduct - definitions.
22 (1) "Unprofessional conduct" as used in this article 241 means:

(ii) FAILING, WITHOUT REASONABLE CAUSE, TO COMPLY WITH THE
continuing medical education requirement established in section
12-240-130.5 or to provide the required evidence of completion of
continuing medical education credit hours in response to an
audit by the board pursuant to section 12-240-130.5 (8).

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SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 12-240-130.5 as
 follows:

3 12-240-130.5. Continuing medical education - requirement 4 compliance - legislative declaration - rules - definitions. (1) (a) THE
5 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:

6 (I) MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE, METHODS OF DIAGNOSIS, AND 7 TREATMENT OPTIONS HAVE EXPANDED EXPONENTIALLY SINCE THE 8 BEGINNING OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, WITH EXCITING RESEARCH 9 AND DISCOVERIES, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MEDICATIONS 10 AND TOOLS FOR MORE ACCURATE AND EFFECTIVE DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, 11 AND PREVENTION OF DISEASE;

12 (II) WHILE THERE ARE PROMISING ADVANCES IN MEDICINE, 13 COLORADO FACES CHALLENGES THAT AFFECT THE HEALTH AND 14 WELL-BEING OF ITS RESIDENTS, INCLUDING AN AGING POPULATION; 15 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES, INCLUDING 16 EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS; NONNATIVE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS; 17 CHANGING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND NEW CONTAMINANTS IN 18 WATER, AIR, AND FOOD THAT ARE DANGEROUS TO HUMAN HEALTH; 19 CHANGES IN STATE AND FEDERAL LAW IMPACTING ACCESS TO 20 REPRODUCTIVE, SEXUAL, AND GENDER-BASED HEALTH CARE; AND THE 21 INCREASING NEED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND PHYSICAL AND 22 MENTAL HEALTH-CARE INTEGRATION;

(III) STATE AND NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS RECOGNIZE
THE PRACTICAL AND ETHICAL DUTIES PHYSICIANS HAVE TO THEIR
PATIENTS AND TO THE PROFESSION TO MAINTAIN COMPETENCY IN THE
RAPIDLY CHANGING MEDICAL FIELD AND THE WORLD; AND

27 (IV) TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES AND DUTIES, THERE IS A NEED

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1 FOR MANDATED CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION FOR PHYSICIANS.

2 (b) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND
3 DECLARES THAT:

4 (I) A LICENSE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THIS STATE IS GRANTED
5 TO INDIVIDUALS WHO DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY IN THE PROFESSION;
6 AND

(II) AS A CONDITION OF THE PERIODIC RENEWAL OF A PHYSICIAN'S
LICENSE OR THE REINSTATEMENT OR REACTIVATION OF A MEDICAL
LICENSE, IT IS APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY THAT COLORADO REQUIRE
A PHYSICIAN TO COMPLETE CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION TO ENSURE
CONTINUING COMPETENCY IN THE PROFESSION AND TO PREPARE FOR THE
PATIENTS AND HEALTH ISSUES OF THE FUTURE.

13 (2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
14 REQUIRES:

(a) "AMA PRA CATEGORY I CREDITTM" MEANS CREDIT FOR HOURS
AWARDED FOR CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION THAT APPLY TOWARD
THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S PHYSICIAN'S RECOGNITION
AWARD.

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20 (b) "CME CREDIT HOUR" MEANS ONE HOUR OF CME CREDIT
21 AWARDED FOR ONE CLOCK HOUR OF CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION.

(c) "COMPLIANCE PERIOD" MEANS THE TWENTY-FOUR-MONTH
PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE RENEWAL, REINSTATEMENT, OR
REACTIVATION OF A PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE.

25 (d) "CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION" OR "CME" MEANS A
26 PROGRAM OF CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION THAT IS ACCREDITED BY
27 AN ORGANIZATION SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3)(d) OF THIS SECTION.

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(e) "NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION" MEANS A CERTIFICATION
 PROGRAM THAT MEETS ACCEPTED STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION AND
 INCLUDES BOTH:

4 (I) A PROCESS FOR DEFINING SPECIALTY-SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR
5 KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS; AND

6 (II) AN INDEPENDENT, EXTERNAL, PSYCHOMETRICALLY VALID
7 ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR BOTH INITIAL
8 CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION OR CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATION BY
9 THE CERTIFYING BODY THAT GRANTED THE INITIAL CERTIFICATION IN THE
10 MEDICAL SPECIALTY.

11 (3) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS TITLE 12 TO 12 THE CONTRARY, COMMENCING WITH LICENSE RENEWAL, REINSTATEMENT, 13 OR REACTIVATION OCCURRING ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026, EXCEPT AS 14 PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (3)(c), (4), AND (5) OF THIS SECTION, THE 15 BOARD SHALL NOT RENEW, REINSTATE, OR REACTIVATE A LICENSE OF A 16 PHYSICIAN UNLESS THE PHYSICIAN PRESENTS EVIDENCE THAT THE 17 PHYSICIAN HAS COMPLETED THIRTY CME CREDIT HOURS WITHIN THE 18 COMPLIANCE PERIOD.

(b) UNLESS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN A BOARD AUDIT OF CME
compliance pursuant to subsection (8) of this section, a physician
shall provide evidence of compliance with this section by:

(I) ANSWERING AFFIRMATIVELY, UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, A
QUESTION REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE CME REQUIREMENT THAT
IS INCLUDED ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE THAT ACCOMPANIES THE LICENSE
RENEWAL FORM DESCRIBED IN SECTION 12-240-130 (2); OR

26 (II) FOR AN APPLICANT FOR REINSTATEMENT OR REACTIVATION, BY
27 ATTESTING TO THAT FACT ON THE APPLICATION.

1 (c) IF NECESSARY, THE BOARD SHALL ADJUST PROPORTIONATELY 2 THE NUMBER OF CME CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION 3 (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO ENSURE THAT, DUE TO THE DATE OF THE 4 LICENSE RENEWAL, REINSTATEMENT, OR REACTIVATION, A PHYSICIAN IS 5 NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THIRTY CME CREDIT HOURS IN FEWER THAN 6 TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS. 7 (d) TO QUALIFY FOR CME CREDIT HOURS, A PROGRAM MUST: 8 (I) BE ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR 9 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION AND QUALIFY FOR AMA PRA

10 CATEGORY 1 CREDITTM;

(II) QUALIFY FOR PRESCRIBED CREDIT FROM THE AMERICAN
 ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS;

13 (III) BE AN APPROVED PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC
14 ASSOCIATION; OR

15 (IV) BE A PROGRAM REQUIRED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN NATIONAL
16 BOARD CERTIFICATION, NOT INCLUDING A PROGRAM SELF-CLAIMED OR
17 SELF-DOCUMENTED BY THE PHYSICIAN.

(e) As part of the THIRTY CME CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED
PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION, OR THE ADJUSTED
NUMBER OF CME CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
(3)(c) OF THIS SECTION, A PHYSICIAN SHALL COMPLETE CME CREDIT
HOURS IN TOPICS SPECIFIED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS
SECTION.

(4) (a) THE BOARD MAY RENEW THE LICENSE OF A PHYSICIAN WHO
PRESENTS ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE TO THE BOARD THAT THE PHYSICIAN
WAS UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE CME CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED
PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

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(b) THE BOARD MAY GRANT A SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE
 COMPLIANCE PERIOD TO A PHYSICIAN WHO IS UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH
 THE CME CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF
 THIS SECTION.

5 (5) THE BOARD MAY WAIVE THE CME REQUIREMENT FOR A
6 PHYSICIAN'S FIRST RENEWAL PERIOD IF THE PHYSICIAN WAS INITIALLY
7 LICENSED WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS AFTER COMPLETING A
8 BOARD-APPROVED INTERNSHIP OR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING.

9 (6) As part of the CME requirement established pursuant
10 TO THIS SECTION, IN ADDITION TO CME PROGRAMS COVERING TOPICS
11 SELECTED BY THE PHYSICIAN, A PHYSICIAN'S CME CREDIT HOURS MUST
12 INCLUDE:

13 (a) CME CREDIT HOURS THAT COMPLY WITH SECTION 12-30-114
14 AND RELATED BOARD RULES; AND

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16 (b) CME CREDIT HOURS COVERING A TOPIC SPECIFIED BY THE
17 BOARD BY RULE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (7)(b) OF THIS SECTION.

18 (7) THE BOARD SHALL PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY TO
19 IMPLEMENT A PHYSICIAN CME REQUIREMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
20 SECTION. IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER RULES, THE BOARD SHALL ADOPT
21 RULES:

- (a) REQUIRING THAT A PHYSICIAN MAINTAIN A TRANSCRIPT OR
 CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE AT THE CME PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES
 A STATEMENT OF THE CREDIT HOURS EARNED;
- 26 (b) (I) RELATING TO ANY CME CREDIT HOURS IN A SPECIFIC TOPIC,
 27 IF THE BOARD APPROVES THE TOPIC, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF CREDIT

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HOURS, THE FREQUENCY OF THE REQUIREMENT, AND WHICH PHYSICIANS
 ARE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENT. NOTHING IN THIS SUBSECTION
 (7)(b)(I) ALLOWS THE BOARD TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED
 CME CREDIT HOURS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.
 (II) THE BOARD SHALL INITIATE A STAKEHOLDER PROCESS TO

6 CONSIDER REQUIRING, FOR GENERAL PRACTICE AND FOR ALL SPECIALTIES,
7 SPECIFIC CME CREDIT HOURS RELATING TO HEALTH DISPARITIES AND
8 OUTCOMES DATA; REPRODUCTIVE, SEXUAL, AND GENDER-BASED HEALTH
9 CARE; AND EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT BIAS, INCLUDING THE NUMBER AND
10 FREQUENCY OF CME CREDIT HOURS.

(c) INDICATING THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE BOARD
WOULD WAIVE THE CME REQUIREMENT FOR A PHYSICIAN OR EXTEND THE
PHYSICIAN'S COMPLIANCE PERIOD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS
SECTION;

15 (d) IMPLEMENTING AN AUDIT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION,
16 IF UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS
17 SECTION; AND

18 (e) FOR REINSTATEMENT OF A LICENSE THAT HAS BECOME
19 INACTIVE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (8) (a) THE BOARD MAY ANNUALLY AUDIT UP TO FIVE PERCENT OF 21 PHYSICIANS, CHOSEN AT RANDOM WITH AN OVERSAMPLING OF 22 NONBOARD-CERTIFIED PHYSICIANS, FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION. 23 (b) IF CHOSEN BY THE BOARD FOR AN AUDIT OF COMPLIANCE WITH 24 THE CME REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, 25 UNLESS THE BOARD HAS ADJUSTED THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED CREDIT 26 HOURS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(c) OF THIS SECTION OR GRANTED A 27 WAIVER OR EXTENSION OF THE CME REQUIREMENT DURING THE 1 COMPLIANCE PERIOD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION, THE 2 PHYSICIAN SHALL PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THE COMPLETION OF THIRTY 3 CREDIT HOURS OF CME PROGRAMS COMPLETED WITHIN THE 4 TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF THE PHYSICIAN'S 5 RENEWAL, REINSTATEMENT, OR REACTIVATION OF THE LICENSE.

6 (9) (a) IF A PHYSICIAN FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE CME 7 REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION OR TO PROVIDE 8 THE REQUIRED EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION OF CME CREDIT HOURS IN 9 RESPONSE TO AN AUDIT BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8)(a)10 OF THIS SECTION:

11 (I) THE PHYSICIAN'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITHOUT REASONABLE 12 CAUSE CONSTITUTES UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 12-240-121 (1)(ii); AND

14 (II) THE PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE BECOMES INACTIVE UNTIL 15 REINSTATED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO BOARD RULE.

16 (b) A PHYSICIAN WITH AN INACTIVE LICENSE IS NOT REQUIRED TO 17 COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION BUT SHALL MEET THE CME REQUIREMENT 18 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION BEFORE THE BOARD REACTIVATES THE 19 LICENSE.

20 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-120, amend 21 (1)(c) and (1)(d); and add (1)(e) as follows:

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12-240-120. Refusal of license - issuance subject to probation. 23 (1) The board may refrain from issuing a license or may grant a license 24 subject to terms of probation if the board determines that an applicant for

25 a license:

26 (c) Has been disciplined in another state or foreign jurisdiction 27 with respect to his or her THE APPLICANT'S license to practice medicine, license to practice as a physician assistant, or license to practice as an
 anesthesiologist assistant; or

3 (d) Has not actively practiced medicine, practiced as a physician
4 assistant, or practiced as an anesthesiologist assistant for the two-year
5 period immediately preceding the filing of an application, or otherwise
6 maintained continued competency during that period, as determined by
7 the board; OR

8 (e) HAS NOT COMPLETED REQUIRED CONTINUING MEDICAL
9 EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-240-130.5.

SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-240-141, amend
(5) as follows:

12 12-240-141. Inactive license. (5) Any person licensed under this 13 section who wishes to resume the practice of medicine or to resume 14 practice as a physician assistant shall file an application in the form and 15 manner the board shall designate, MEET THE REQUIRED APPLICABLE 16 CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 17 12-240-130.5, pay the license fee promulgated by the board pursuant to 18 section 12-240-130, and meet the financial responsibility requirements 19 promulgated by the board pursuant to section 13-64-301 (1). The board 20 may approve the application and issue a license or may deny the 21 application as set forth in section 12-240-120.

SECTION 7. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take

- 1 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
- 2 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 3 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.