

**TITLE 3: HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**DIVISION 2: HEALTH**

**§ 2241. General Provisions; Applicability.**

This article applies to the licensing of foreign and international medical graduates without U.S. training or a U.S. license and supersedes and replaces the licensing provisions of subchapter 140-50.1 in respect to such medical professionals.

**Source:** PL 17-56, § 2(140-50.3-001) (September 27, 2011), modified.

**Commission Comment:** The Commission changed “subchapter” to “article” in this section pursuant to its authority under 1 CMC § 3806(d). Public Law 17-56 was enacted on September 27, 2011 to create a new chapter of regulations in the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) for the licensing of foreign medical professionals in the absence of regulations promulgated by the Medical Professional Licensing Board. The NMIAC contains the codified version of all agency regulations promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) (1 CMC §§ 9101-9115). Public Laws are codified in the statutory code and do not follow the notice and comment process or other procedures required under the APA. Accordingly, PL 17-56, as a public law, is codified in this article rather than in a NMIAC chapter. PL 17-56 included severability and savings provisions and the following:

Section 1. Finding. The Commonwealth needs to address its health care

system, provide short term and long term solutions in order to have a healthy population, where common diseases like diabetes and hypertension are eliminated, and the life span of every citizen is prolonged. The Commonwealth needs to take action to allow and encourage qualified medical professionals, including foreign medical professionals, to practice in the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth Medical Practice Act provides that "When there is a physician shortage, applicants who are not citizens or nationals of the United States or permanent residents of the Commonwealth may qualify pursuant to the discretion of the [Medical Professional Licensing] board".

Although the Commonwealth has consistently experienced a physician shortage, the Medical Professional Licensing Board, which was established in 1982, has not adopted any regulations for the licensing of medical professionals who are not United States citizens or permanent residents. Since the Medical Professional Licensing Board has not adopted licensing regulations necessary to the health and welfare of the residents of the Commonwealth, the Legislature finds that it is appropriate for the Legislature to adopt appropriate regulations for the licensing of foreign medical professionals.