

Emergency Licensing Regulation

September 2008 was a difficult month for many Americans living in the Gulf Coast. Hurricanes Gustav and Ike decimated large sections of Louisiana, Florida, Texas and other states, leaving many physicians and physicians-in-training without homes, hospitals or offices in which to practice medicine. The Board of Registration in Medicine has received inquiries from out-of-state physicians in need and from training programs seeking to help those displaced by these recent disasters. As you may recall, the Board responded to Hurricane Katrina by issuing a similar emergency regulation for displaced physicians.

The Board recently issued an emergency regulation establishing an emergency restricted license and an emergency restricted limited license. These emergency regulations became effective on September 25, 2008. These restricted licenses may be granted to qualified physicians or physicians-in-training who have been displaced by a federally declared disaster. Displaced physicians may apply for this emergency restricted license if they are sponsored by an active, unrestricted Massachusetts licensee. The emergency license expires in three months, or whenever a full unrestricted license or limited license is granted, whichever is sooner.

While the emergency regulations are effective as of September 25, 2008, these regulations will expire in three months unless they are made permanent through the regular public hearing process. The Board is holding a Public Hearing on the Emergency Restricted License and the Emergency Restricted Limited License on Wednesday, November 17, 2008 at 1:00 PM at the Board offices. All are invited to attend. The Board has set a Public Comment period for these regulations as October 3 – November 21, 2008. The hearing and the public comment period are confined to comments on proposed 243 CMR 2.02(6)(e) and 243 CMR 2.02(8)(a).

Text of Emergency Regulations

Public Hearing Notice