

**Texas Medical Board  
Press Release  
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**TMB ISSUES RECORD NUMBER OF PHYSICIAN LICENSES**

The Texas Medical Board licensed more than 3,600 doctors in Fiscal Year 2008, surpassing the previous record, set in FY 2007, by almost 300 licenses.

“Texas is a popular place to practice medicine, as evidenced by the dramatic increase over the past few years in the number of doctors who seek to be licensed here,” said Dr. Roberta Kalafut, TMB’s board president. “We have applicants coming to Texas from all over the country and all over the world.

“Our staff has responded to this greatly increased and varied demand” Kalafut said. “We are issuing more licenses than ever, more quickly than ever, and we have eliminated the backlog of applications awaiting processing, all without compromising the quality of physicians licensed in Texas.”

TMB licensed 3,621 doctors in FY 2008, an increase of almost 9 percent over the previous record of 3,324 licenses that were issued in FY 2007. The 2007 record eclipsed by almost 500 licenses the previous record, 2,828 licenses, which were issued in FY 2002.

Processing times for licenses also have been greatly reduced, and exceed legislative requirements. The Board licensed 1,549 doctors in the fourth quarter of 2008 in an average of 42 days. The Texas Legislature in 2007 appropriated six additional employees for the licensing division but mandated that licenses must be issued in an average of 51 days or less. The additional resources not only allowed the Board to exceed that requirement, the Board also eliminated a backlog that had more than 500 applications waiting for screening as recently as February.

License processing times can be slowed by the complexity of medical license applications. Before TMB can license a physician, it first must determine that the physician’s education and training are substantially equivalent to the medical education and training provided in Texas. This can prove challenging, as TMB last year licensed physicians who were trained in 45 states, six Canadian provinces and 82 other foreign countries.

Almost 30 percent of the physicians licensed in Texas last year, 1,032, received their medical education at foreign schools.

