

8 states with graduate physician roles

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Several states have enacted laws creating new medical positions for graduate physicians who have not found a residency position.

Graduate physicians have also been referred to as assistant physicians, associate physicians or bridge physicians.

Due to a surplus of medical schools and a shortage of residency spots, many medical school graduates have not acquired a residency slot. These laws are designed to allow graduate physicians to practice medicine and hone their skills under a supervising physician until they are accepted to a residency program.

Each state has a cap on how long these physicians can practice medicine before reapplying for residency; these lengths of time vary. For example, after two years in Tennessee, a graduate physician will no longer be able to practice medicine until they enter residency.

The following are states with graduate physician laws in place, according to *Cato Institute*:

- [Arizona](#)
- [Arkansas](#)
- [Idaho](#)
- [Kansas](#)
- [Louisiana](#)
- [Missouri](#)
- [Tennessee](#)
- [Utah](#)