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The Arizona Medical Board resumed issuing initial licenses to qualified allopathic physicians in October 2014. Yesterday, the Agency held a special meeting to help expedite licensing qualified applicants prior to the December regularly scheduled meeting. The Agency's Board reviewed and granted 14 new licenses that would otherwise have had to wait until the December regularly scheduled meeting for determination.

During the 2014 legislative session, a new licensing requirement for fingerprint-based Federal and State background checks of license applicants was enacted and became effective September 2, 2014. A pause in the issuance of initial licenses from September 2 through October 8, 2014 occurred after the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) declined to process Agency Federal background checks shortly after the implementation deadline.

Until such time the Legislature is able to permanently address the FBI's concerns, the Agency has instituted an interim process designed to fulfill the purpose of the background check requirement and the Agency's obligation to protect the public. The Agency remains committed to effectively protecting the public by judiciously licensing and regulating allopathic physicians in the manner required by law.

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