

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- OPTICIANS -- QUALIFICATIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Finkelman, and Baginski

Date Introduced: January 26, 2024

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5-35.2-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-35.2 entitled "Opticians"
2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-35.2-2. Qualification of optician applicants.**

4 (a) Every applicant for licensure shall present satisfactory evidence, in the form of
5 affidavits properly sworn to, that he or she:

6 (1) ~~Is of good moral character; and~~

7 (2) Has graduated from a two-year (2) school of opticianry approved by the New England
8 Association of Schools and Colleges or an equivalent regional accrediting authority or other
9 accrediting authority as may be approved by the department with consultation from the advisory
10 committee; ~~and~~ or has successfully completed an apprenticeship program registered in accordance
11 with chapter 45 of title 28, of not less than four thousand one hundred (4,100) hours in not less than
12 two (2) years pursuant to meeting the approval of the applicable requirements of this section; and

13 (3) Has successfully passed the national opticianry competency examination or any other
14 written examination approved by the department with consultation from the advisory committee;
15 and

16 (4) Has successfully passed a practical examination approved by the department with
17 consultation from the advisory committee.

18 (b) Every applicant for licensure who is or has been licensed in an alternate jurisdiction
19 shall present satisfactory evidence in the form of affidavits properly sworn to that he or she:

- 1 (1) ~~Is of good moral character; and~~
- 2 (2) Has graduated from high school; and
- 3 (3) Has graduated from a two-year (2) school of opticianry approved by the New England
- 4 Association of Schools and Colleges or an equivalent regional accrediting authority or other
- 5 accrediting authority as may be approved by the department with consultation from the advisory
- 6 committee; or has successfully completed a two-year (2) opticianry apprenticeship program; and
- 7 (4) Has held a valid license to practice opticianry in another state for at least one year and
- 8 was in good standing during that time; and
- 9 (5) Has practiced opticianry in this or any other state for a period of not less than one year;
- 10 and
- 11 (6) Has successfully passed the national opticianry competency examination or any other
- 12 written examination approved by the department with consultation from the advisory committee;
- 13 and
- 14 (7) Has successfully passed a practical exam approved by the department with consultation
- 15 from the advisory committee.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC004528
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- OPTICIANS -- QUALIFICATIONS

1 This act would establish a second avenue of qualification as an optician, to include
2 successfully completing an apprenticeship program of not less than four thousand one hundred
3 (4,100) hours in not less than two (2) years. The act would also remove the standard of “good moral
4 character.”

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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