

2023 -- H 6398

LC002960

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- OPTICIANS

Introduced By: Representatives Finkelman, and Baginski

Date Introduced: May 12, 2023

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 or has successfully completed an apprenticeship program registered in accordance with  
11 chapter 45 of title 28, consisting of not less than four thousand one hundred (4,100) hours and  
12 completed in not less than two (2) years; 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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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- OPTICIANS

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1           This act would provide as an alternative to graduation from a two (2) year school of  
2   opticianry that the education requirement for licensing may be satisfied by completion of an  
3   apprentice program of not less than four thousand one hundred (4,100) hours, in not less than two  
4   (2) years, in order to become a licensed optician.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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