

"(c) The Commissioners shall design and adopt a seal to be used for authenticating records and papers pertaining to the licensing and regulation of optometrists in the District of Columbia. Copies of all records and papers duly certified and authenticated by such seal shall be received in evidence in all courts of the District of Columbia equally and with like effect as the original. Records kept by the Commissioners pertaining to the licensing and regulation of optometrists in the District of Columbia shall be open to public inspection under reasonable rules and regulations prescribed by the Commissioners.

"SEC. 11. The Commissioners may make such inspections, studies, and investigations, and obtain or require the furnishing of such information under oath or affirmation or otherwise, as they deem necessary or proper to assist them in prescribing any regulation or order under this Act, or in the administration or enforcement of this Act and any regulations or rules or orders thereunder. For such purposes, the Commissioners may administer oath and affirmations, may require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and the production of documents at any designated place within the District of Columbia. In the event of contumacy or refusal to obey any such subpoena or requirement under this section, the Commissioners may make application to the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions for an order requiring obedience thereto. Thereupon, the Court, with or without notice and hearing, as it, in its discretion, may decide, shall make such order as is proper and may punish as a contempt, any failure to comply with such order in accordance with section 11-982 of the District of Columbia Code.

"SEC. 12. Whenever, in the judgment of the Commissioners, any person has engaged in or is about to engage in any act or practice which constitutes or will constitute a violation of any provision of this Act, the Commissioners may make application to the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions for an order either temporarily or permanently enjoining such act or practice, and upon showing by the Commissioners that such person has engaged in or is about to engage in any such act or practice, an injunction, restraining order, or such other order as may be appropriate shall be granted by the court, without bond.

"SEC. 13. (a) Prosecutions for violations of any of the provisions of this Act shall be conducted in the name of the District of Columbia in the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions by the Corporation Counsel or any of his assistants.

"(b) An optometrist licensed under this Act shall be considered competent after qualification by the court to present testimony relating to the practice of optometry as defined in this Act. Certificates of visual condition, acuity, and efficiency issued by any duly licensed optometrist under this Act, shall be accepted as qualified evidence of the visual condition, acuity, and efficiency of the person to whom such certificate shall relate, by officers or employees of the government of the District of Columbia in the performance of their duties.

"SEC. 14. No officer or employee of the District of Columbia shall, in the administration of any law applicable to the District of Columbia, deprive any person of his right to exercise his freedom of choice of an optometrist or a physician.

"SEC. 15. The Commissioners are authorized to delegate to the Board of Optometry established by Reorganization Order No. 59 all or any part of the powers, duties, and functions vested in them by this Act. The Commissioners are authorized to delegate to any other officer or employee of the government of the District of Columbia all or any part of such powers, duties, and functions. Any delegation made under authority of this section shall be for such periods and subject to such conditions as the Commissioners determine necessary."

SEC. 2 Every license to practice optometry in the District of Columbia which is valid on the effective date of this Act shall continue to be valid under the District of Columbia Optometry Act, as amended by this Act, until such date within one year of the effective date of this Act as the Commissioners of the District of Columbia fix as the date for the automatic annual renewal for such license under the District of Columbia Optometry Act, and any such license which would have expired between the effective date of this Act and the annual renewal date fixed for such license by the Commissioners under this section shall continue in effect until such renewal date, unless sooner suspended or revoked in accordance with the District of Columbia Optometry Act.

SEC. 3. Subsection (a) of section 11-742 of the District of Columbia Code is amended (1) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (9); (2) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (10) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon; and (3) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph: