

"SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the 'District of Columbia Optometry Act'.

"SEC. 2. The practice of optometry as a profession in the District of Columbia is hereby declared to affect the public health, welfare, and safety, thus requiring regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest and concern that the practice of optometry as a profession be limited to qualified persons admitted to the practice of optometry in the District of Columbia under the provisions of this Act.

"SEC. 3. As used in this Act—

"(1) 'Commissioners' means the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia or its designated agents;

"(2) 'practice of optometry' means, any one, any combination, or all of the following acts or practices as they are included in the curriculum of recognized schools and colleges of optometry: (a) the employment of any objective or subjective means for the examination of the human eye, including its appendages; (b) the measurement of the powers or range of human vision; (c) the determination of the accommodative and refractive powers of the human eye; (d) the prescription of lenses, prisms, or frames for the aid of human eye; (e) the adaptation, utilization, or furnishing of lenses, prisms, or frames for the aid of the human eye; (f) the prescribing, directing the use of, or administering vision training or orthoptics, and the use of any optical device in connection therewith; (g) the prescribing of contact lenses for, or the fitting or adaptation of contact lenses to the human eye; and (h) the identification of any departure from the normal condition or function of human eye, including its appendages;

"(3) 'optometrist' means, except as otherwise provided in this Act, an individual licensed to engage in the practice of optometry in the District of Columbia;

"(4) 'person' means any natural person, corporation, association, company, firm, partnership, or society;

"(5) 'individual' means only a natural person; and

"(6) 'State' means the States of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of the United States.

"SEC. 4. The Commissioners shall issue a license to practice optometry in the District of Columbia to any individual who—

"(1) is at least twenty-one years of age;

"(2) is of good moral character;

"(3) is mentally competent;

"(4) has satisfied the Commissioners that he has had a preliminary education equivalent to the completion of a four-year course of study in an accredited high school;

"(5) has completed a preoptometric course of at least two years at college level;

"(6) has graduated from a school or college of optometry approved by the Commissioners after completion of a course of study of not less than four years;

"(7) has passed written, oral, and practical examinations as prescribed by the Commissioners in the following subjects: geometric, physical and physiological optics; theoretic optometry and optics; anatomy, physiology, and pathology, especially as they relate to the eye and to vision; general practice of optometry; special practice of optometry; practical optometric dispensing and such other subject matters as are taught in the schools and colleges of optometry and which the Commissioners deem necessary to determine the applicant's competence to practice as an optometrist. The Commissioners may accept the results of written examinations given by the National Board of Optometry, but shall conduct their own oral and practical examinations. The Commissioners are authorized and empowered to alter, amend, and otherwise change the educational standards at any time, but in altering, amending, or changing said standards, the Commissioners shall not be permitted to lower the same below the standards herein set forth; and

"(8) has paid all the required fees.

"SEC. 5 (a) The Commissioners are authorized to issue a reciprocity license to an individual who holds a license to practice optometry in another State. An applicant for a reciprocity license may, at the discretion of the Commissioners, be licensed without a written examination but the must be given and pass a practical and oral examination. A reciprocity license shall be granted only if—