

ing 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 Numbered 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:

"(11) final decision and orders of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia denying, suspending, or revoking any license, denying any renewal of a license or reinstatement of a license, pursuant to the District of Columbia Optometry Act."

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after the date of its enactment.

STAFF MEMORANDUM RE BILLS TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY, H.R. 1283 (SISK), H.R. 595 (FUTQUA), H.R. 732 (HULL), H.R. 10075 (SPRINGER)

PURPOSES OF BILLS

To amend 1924 D.C. Optometry Law (approved May 28, 1924, 43 Stat. 177, D.C. Code, Title 2, Secs. 501-522) and set up new and improved standards to conform to those in the fifty states and territories which now require higher qualifications than the District of Columbia.

MAIN PROVISIONS OF BILLS

(1) The bills limit the *practice of Optometry* as a profession to qualified persons admitted under the Act (Sec. 2)—and declare the practice of optometry to affect the health, welfare, and safety of the public, thereby requiring regulation.

Present Law: Optometry is defined as application of optical principles through technical methods and devices (2-501).