

COMPARISON OF H.R. 595 AND PRESENT LAW

H.R. 595

TITLE 2, D.C. CODE

Sec. 1—cites the Act as the "District of Columbia Optometry Act".
 Sec. 2—declares optometry to be a profession subject to regulation in the public interest. Limits its practice to persons qualified and licensed under this Act.
 Sec. 3—defines certain terms used in the Act. The most significant definition is that of "practice of optometry", which is defined in functional terms as: (1) an examination of the eye and its appendages by objective or subjective means; (2) the measurement of the eye's power or range of vision; (3) the determination of the eye's accommodative and refractive powers; (4) the determination of the eye's scope of functions, in general; (5) the prescribing of eye lenses, prisms or frames; (6) the adapting, utilizing or furnishing of the latter to aid the eye; (7) the prescription, application, or direction of visual training or orthoptics, and the use of related optical devices in connection therewith; (8) the prescribing, fitting, or adapting contact lenses for the eye; (9) the identification of abnormal conditions and functions of the eye.

No comparable provision.
 § 502—prohibits unlicensed persons from practicing optometry. No comparable provision respecting professional status, and need for regulation, of the practice of optometry.
 §§ 501, 502—section 501 defines the "practice of optometry" as the use of "... optical principles through technical methods and devices..." to examine the eye for visual defects, and adapt lenses for the aid and relief thereof. Section 502 appears to clarify the above definition in making it unlawful to attempt to examine the eyes to determine the kind of eyeglasses needed—unless licensed to do so under the Code.

OPTOMETRY