

the prescribing of optical devices in connection therewith; or the prescribing of contact lenses for, or the fitting or adaptation of contact lenses to the human eye."

C. Amend Section 4 to read as follows:

"Sec. 4(a) 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 graduated from a school of optometry approved by the Commissioners which maintains a course in optometry of not less than five years;

"(6) has passed written, oral, and practical examinations as prescribed by the Commissioners in the following subjects:

"(a) Practical optics

"(b) Theoretic optometry

"(c) Anatomy and physiology and such pathology as may be applied to optometry

"(d) Practical optometry

"(e) Theoretic and physiologic optics

"(f) Theory and practice of orthoptics and visual training

"(g) Theory and practice of contact lens fitting

"(b) The Board, with the approval of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, is authorized and empowered to alter, amend, and otherwise change the educational standards at any time, but in altering, amending, or changing said standards the board shall not be permitted to lower the same below the standards herein set forth."

D. Amend Section 13(c) to read as follows: "Certificates of visual acuity issued by any duly licensed optometrist shall be accepted by any administrative officer or employee of the Government of the District of Columbia in the performance of his duties."

E. Amend Section 14 to read as follows: "No officer or employee of the District of Columbia shall, in his administrative capacity, prefer or recommend one class of licensed practitioner over the other for the sole purpose of determining visual acuity."

In the foregoing modifications of the proposed amendments offered by the Medical Society of the District of Columbia we have taken note of the fact that under the existing optometry law the way is open for optometry to increase its educational standards and keep pace with scientific progress. This is provided for through the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and has twice been sought and granted.

We have also taken note of the need of certificates of visual acuity in administrative functioning of the Government of the District of Columbia, and that these should be acceptable for administrative purposes when issued by an optometrist licensed in any recognized jurisdiction.

We strongly urge the adoption of these amendments and those others proposed by the Medical Society as being necessary to the public health, welfare and safety in the District of Columbia.

Most emphatically in our own interests we urge the exclusion of the dispensing optician from the application of this proposed Act by amending Section 9(c) as suggested in order to preserve his traditional and proven role in the pattern of visual care in the Nation's Capital.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. MILLER.

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