



REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

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HB 245 Licensure of Optometrists **Sectional**

Section 1:

Technical amendments for grammar and removes high school requirement as it is unnecessary. Also outlines educational requirements required for licensure.

Applicant must have completed:

- 1.) Examination on ocular pharmacology
- 2.) 23 hours of course work on ocular disease
- 3.) 7 hours of course work on therapeutic pharmaceutical agent injections.
- 4.) Other course work established in regulation

Section 2:

Allows an applicant to retake the exam if they fail.

Section 3:

Requires applicants for licensure by credentials to have a license from a state that has licensure requirements equivalent to Alaska, pass the Alaska state exam, and the National Board of Examiners of Optometry exam.

Section 4:

Deals with renewal of licenses. Outlines requirements that must be obtained before a license may be renewed. The applicant must have:

- 1.) 8 hours of continuing education concerning the prescription of pharmaceutical agents;
- 2.) 7 hours of continuing education on the injection of nontopical therapeutic pharmaceutical agents;
- 3.) Met other requirements outlined by the Board through regulation

Section 5:

Deals with retired status licenses. Upon retirement a licensee may apply for a retired license. A retired license does not have to be renewed and the person may not practice optometry in Alaska. However, a person may go from retired status to active status upon application and upon meeting certain educational criteria.

Section 6:

Removes reference to certain class of optometry license as the bill creates only one class of license that is allowed to practice in this state.

Also, outlines the circumstances that an optometrist can prescribe pharmaceuticals (already in statute).

Section 7:

Repeals references to different classes of licenses.

Section 8:

Transitional Section: Allows a person who is not currently licensed at the highest level to be grandfathered in and get a restricted license. This will allow them to continue to practice but still not exceed their educational level.

Section 9:

Revisor Instruction: retitling a section heading

Section 10:

Immediate effective date.