



1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to optometry; amending s. 463.006,  
 3           F.S.; requiring an applicant for licensure as an  
 4           optometrist to submit proof to the Department of  
 5           Health that she or he meets certain requirements;  
 6           removing a requirement that the department examine an  
 7           applicant who meets specified requirements for  
 8           licensure and certification; requiring the Board of  
 9           Optometry to approve a licensure examination that  
 10          meets certain requirements; clarifying that the board  
 11          may offer a practical examination in addition to a  
 12          written examination under certain circumstances;  
 13          providing that an applicant must pass the licensure  
 14          examination within a specified timeframe as a  
 15          condition of licensure as an optometrist and  
 16          certification to administer and prescribe ocular  
 17          pharmaceutical agents; amending s. 463.0057, F.S.;  
 18          conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective  
 19          date.

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 21   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 23           Section 1.   Section 463.006, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 24   to read:  
 25           463.006   Licensure and certification by examination.—



26           (1) Any person desiring to be a licensed practitioner  
27 pursuant to this chapter must ~~shall~~ apply to the department and  
28 must submit proof to ~~take the licensure and certification~~  
29 ~~examinations.~~ the department that she or he shall examine each  
30 ~~applicant who the board determines has:~~

31           (a) Has completed the application forms as required by the  
32 board, remitted an application fee for certification not to  
33 exceed \$250, remitted an examination fee for certification not  
34 to exceed \$250, and remitted an examination fee for licensure  
35 not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

36           (b) ~~Submitted proof satisfactory to the department that~~  
37 ~~she or he:~~

38           ~~1.~~ Is at least 18 years of age.

39           ~~(c)2.~~ Has graduated from an accredited school or college  
40 of optometry approved by rule of the board.

41           ~~(d)3.~~ Is of good moral character.

42           ~~(e)4.~~ Has successfully completed at least 110 hours of  
43 transcript-quality coursework and clinical training in general  
44 and ocular pharmacology as determined by the board, at an  
45 institution that:

46           ~~1.a.~~ Has facilities for both didactic and clinical  
47 instructions in pharmacology; and

48           ~~2.b.~~ Is accredited by a regional or professional  
49 accrediting organization that is recognized and approved by the  
50 Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the



51 United States Department of Education.

52 (f)5- Has completed at least 1 year of supervised  
53 experience in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders  
54 as part of the optometric training or in a clinical setting as  
55 part of the optometric experience.

56 (2) The board shall approve a licensure examination  
57 consisting shall consist of the appropriate subjects and,  
58 including applicable state laws and rules and general and ocular  
59 pharmacology with emphasis on the use and side effects of ocular  
60 pharmaceutical agents. The board may by rule substitute a  
61 national examination as part or all of the examination and,  
62 notwithstanding chapter 456, may by rule offer a practical  
63 examination in addition to a ~~the~~ written examination.

64 (3) Each applicant who submits proof satisfactory to the  
65 board that he or she has met the requirements of subsection (1),  
66 who successfully passes the licensure examination within 3 years  
67 before the date of application or after the submission of an  
68 application, and who otherwise meets the requirements of this  
69 chapter is entitled to be licensed as a practitioner and to be  
70 certified to administer and prescribe ocular pharmaceutical  
71 agents in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular conditions.

72 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 463.0057, Florida  
73 Statutes, is amended to read:

74 463.0057 Optometric faculty certificate.-

75 (3) The holder of a faculty certificate may engage in the



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76 | practice of optometry as permitted by this section but may not  
77 | administer or prescribe topical ocular pharmaceutical agents  
78 | unless the certificateholder has satisfied the requirements of  
79 | s. 463.006(1)(e) and (f) ~~s. 463.006(1)(b)4. and 5.~~ If a  
80 | certificateholder wishes to administer or prescribe oral ocular  
81 | pharmaceutical agents, the certificateholder must also satisfy  
82 | the requirements of s. 463.0055(1)(b).

83 |       Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.