

ENROLLED

HB 7059, Engrossed 1

2018 Legislature

1  
 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.

20  
 21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
 23 Section 1. Section 463.006, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 24 to read:

25 463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.—

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2018 Legislature

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

ENROLLED

HB 7059, Engrossed 1

2018 Legislature

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.