Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 447 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1526

By: Representative M. Gray
By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled
AN ACT TO MODIFY ACT 143 OF 2017 TO SPECIFY THAT A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SHALL INCLUDE THE TAKING OF FINGERPRINTS; TO AUTHORIZE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR OPTOMETRISTS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle
TO MODIFY ACT 143 OF 2017 TO SPECIFY THAT A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SHALL INCLUDE THE TAKING OF FINGERPRINTS; TO AUTHORIZE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR OPTOMETRISTS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-90-302(c)(9), concerning the requirements for licensure by endorsement for an optometrist, as amended by Acts 2017, No. 143, § 1, is amended to read as follows:
(9) Application to the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check, to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which shall include the taking of fingerprints.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that in order to become a licensed

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optometrist in the State of Arkansas, optometrists who are licensed in other
states must retake examinations if the optometrist has not taken all parts of
the examination since 1997, which causes a delay in licensure and places a
barrier on optometrists moving into the state; that licensure by endorsement
authorizes the State Board of Optometry to license individuals with
optometrist licenses in other states quickly and easily; that other states
offer reciprocity to optometrists licensed in Arkansas through licensure by
endorsement; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that
optometric practices are performed within the State of Arkansas with a
license issued by the State Board of Optometry, to bring Arkansas laws
regarding reciprocity of optometrists as quickly as possible, and to increase
health care access to optometric services for the citizens of the State of
Arkansas. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being
immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or
(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 03/13/2017