

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1526

5 By: Representative M. Gray
6 By: Senator Irvin
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

17 TO MODIFY ACT 143 OF 2017 TO SPECIFY THAT
18 A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SHALL INCLUDE
19 THE TAKING OF FINGERPRINTS; TO AUTHORIZE
20 LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR
21 OPTOMETRISTS; AND TO DECLARE AN
22 EMERGENCY.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-90-302(c)(9), concerning the
28 requirements for licensure by endorsement for an optometrist, as amended by
29 Acts 2017, No. 143, § 1, is amended to read as follows:

30 (9) Application to the Identification Bureau of the Department
31 of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check,
32 to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which shall include
33 the taking of fingerprints.
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35 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
36 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that in order to become a licensed



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

16 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

17 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
 18 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
 19 bill; or

20 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 21 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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 24 **APPROVED: 03/13/2017**
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