

2 State of Arkansas
3 90th General Assembly
4 Fourth Extraordinary Session, 2016

A Bill

DRAFT JMB/JMB
SENATE BILL

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

8 Filed with: Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
9 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

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11 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR
12 OPTOMETRISTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 TO AUTHORIZE LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR
17 OPTOMETRISTS.

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

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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-90-302 is amended to read as follows:
23 17-90-302. ~~Reciprocity~~ Licensure by endorsement.

24 (a) Any person from another state desiring to engage in the practice
25 of optometry in this state may be issued a ~~certificate~~ licensure by
26 endorsement at the sole discretion of the State Board of Optometry without a
27 written examination upon satisfactory proof that he or she:

28 (1) Is qualified under this chapter;

29 (2) Has been issued a certificate or license to practice
30 optometry by a state, territory, the District of Columbia, or Canada having
31 ~~licensure requirements at least equal in scope and standards to Arkansas with~~
32 ~~whom the board has an agreement of reciprocity~~ standards of proficiency at
33 least equal to the standards of Arkansas; and

34 (3) Has engaged in the lawful practice of optometry for a period
35 of three (3) years in the other state, territory, the District of Columbia,

1 or Canada and has complied with all the requirements of the Arkansas
2 licensure law at the time of application.

3 (b) ~~He or she shall be required to~~ The applicant shall pay a fee to
4 the Secretary-treasurer of the State Board of Optometry for registration in a
5 reasonable amount to ~~be fixed~~ cover the administrative costs of the
6 application process as determined by the board.

7 (c) An application for licensure by endorsement shall be accompanied
8 by:

9 (1) The fee described in subsection (b) of this section;

10 (2) Certification from all other states or territories in which
11 the applicant has practiced;

12 (3) A certificate of good standing from each authority which
13 issued the license, setting forth the applicant's moral reputation and
14 character, history with the board, professional ability, and such other
15 information or data as the State Board of Optometry may deem necessary or
16 expedient;

17 (4) A copy of the therapeutic license held by the applicant;

18 (5) A copy of the cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification
19 held by the applicant;

20 (6) Transcripts from:

21 (A) All colleges or universities attended by the
22 applicant; and

23 (B) An optometry college;

24 (7) Proof of completion of all parts of the National Board of
25 Examiners in Optometry examination sent directly to the State Board of
26 Optometry;

27 (8) Information on past medical malpractice claims and any
28 disciplinary actions; and

29 (9) Application to the Identification Bureau of the Department
30 of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check,
31 to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

32 (d) Upon furnishing satisfactory proof of fitness as contemplated in
33 this section, the State Board of Optometry in its discretion may issue a
34 license to practice optometry to the applicant without further cost except as
35 otherwise provided in this chapter for the renewal of licenses.

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Referral requested by: Senator Missy Irvin
Prepared by: JMB