

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; removing specific topics
 11 that must be tested on the licensure examination;
 12 providing that an applicant must pass the licensure
 13 examination within a specified timeframe as a
 14 condition of licensure as an optometrist; providing an
 15 effective date.

16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 19 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 463.006,
 20 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

21 463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.—

22 (1) Any person desiring to be a licensed practitioner
 23 pursuant to this chapter shall apply to the department ~~to take~~
 24 ~~the licensure and certification examinations.~~ The department
 25 shall license ~~examine~~ each applicant who the board determines

26 | has:

27 | (a) Completed the application forms as required by the
 28 | board, remitted an application fee for certification not to
 29 | exceed \$250, ~~remitted an examination fee for certification not~~
 30 | ~~to exceed \$250,~~ and remitted a ~~an examination~~ fee for licensure
 31 | not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

32 | (b) Submitted proof satisfactory to the department that
 33 | she or he:

34 | 1. Is at least 18 years of age.

35 | 2. Has graduated from an accredited school or college of
 36 | optometry approved by rule of the board.

37 | 3. Is of good moral character.

38 | 4. Has successfully completed at least 110 hours of
 39 | transcript-quality coursework and clinical training in general
 40 | and ocular pharmacology as determined by the board, at an
 41 | institution that:

42 | a. Has facilities for both didactic and clinical
 43 | instructions in pharmacology; and

44 | b. Is accredited by a regional or professional accrediting
 45 | organization that is recognized and approved by the Commission
 46 | on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United
 47 | States Department of Education.

48 | 5. Has completed at least 1 year of supervised experience
 49 | in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of
 50 | the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the

51 | optometric experience.

52 | 6. Has obtained a passing score, as established by rule of
53 | the board, on the licensure examination of the National Board of
54 | Examiners in Optometry or a similar nationally recognized
55 | examination approved by the board within 3 years prior to or
56 | after submission of an application for licensure.

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

64 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.