

House Bill 881

By: Representatives Chambers of the 81st, Burmeister of the 119th, Drenner of the 86th, Henson of the 87th, Reece of the 27th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 43-29-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 license requirements for dispensing opticians, qualifications of applicants, subjects to be
3 tested on examination, and issuance and display of license, so as to specify certain
4 requirements for practical training and experience for an applicant to obtain licensure through
5 an apprenticeship program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 43-29-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to license
10 requirements for dispensing opticians, qualifications of applicants, subjects to be tested on
11 examination, and issuance and display of license, is amended by striking subsection (b) and
12 inserting in its place the following:

13 "(b) The board shall admit to examination any candidate who pays the fee provided for in
14 this chapter and submits evidence satisfactory to the board, verified on oath, that:

15 (1) The applicant is over 18 years of age;

16 (2) The applicant has completed a high school education or its equivalent, as defined by
17 the State Board of Education;

18 (3) The applicant is of good moral character; and

19 (4) The applicant has satisfactorily completed one school year of not less than an 850
20 hour course of study in a recognized school of optical dispensing or has had practical
21 training and experience of a grade and character satisfactory to the board for not less than
22 two years under the supervision of a licensed dispensing optician, a licensed physician,
23 or a licensed optometrist, provided that any time spent in a recognized school shall be
24 considered as part of the apprenticeship period. The practical training and experience
25 required under this paragraph for an apprenticeship shall include, at a minimum, 3,500
26 hours of experience engaged in apprenticeship functions and shall include instruction in

1 ophthalmic optics, optical laboratory materials and techniques, eye anatomy and
2 physiology, related laws and regulations, ophthalmic dispensing theory and application,
3 and basic contact lens theory. Prior to beginning an apprenticeship, the applicant shall
4 submit a written statement of intention to qualify through an apprenticeship program
5 pursuant to this paragraph to the board. Prior to providing instruction to an apprentice,
6 the supervising licensed dispensing optician, licensed physician, or licensed optometrist
7 shall provide to the board for approval a written plan of instruction including, but not
8 limited to, the title of the subject, a description of the topics presented and the
9 instructional techniques that will be employed, a list of textbooks and instructional
10 materials, and a description of the methods of evaluation. Upon completion by the
11 applicant, such training and experience shall be certified by the supervising licensed
12 dispensing optician, licensed physician, or licensed optometrist to the board."

13

SECTION 2.

14 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.