

House Bill 241 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Chambers of the 81<sup>st</sup>, Cooper of the 41<sup>st</sup>, Drenner of the 86<sup>th</sup>, and Forster of the 3<sup>rd</sup>

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 credit for practical training and experience already  
6 obtained if certain conditions are met; to provide for alternative means of obtaining the  
7 required education, training, and experience for licensure; to provide for related matters; to  
8 provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Code Section 43-29-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to license  
12 requirements for dispensing opticians, qualifications of applicants, subjects to be tested on  
13 examination, and issuance and display of license, is amended as follows:

14 "43-29-7.

15 (a) Any person wishing to obtain the right to practice the trade or occupation of dispensing  
16 optician, as defined in this chapter, shall, before it shall be lawful for him or her to do so  
17 in this state, make application to the board, upon such form and in such manner as shall be  
18 adopted and prescribed by the board, and obtain a license from the board. Unless such  
19 person shall have obtained a license as provided in this subsection, it shall be unlawful for  
20 him or her to practice the trade or occupation of dispensing optician in this state; and he or  
21 she shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in Code Section 43-29-21.

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

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

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

H. B. 241 (SUB)

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

2 (4) The applicant has satisfactorily completed one school year of not less than an 850  
3 hour course of study in a recognized school of optical dispensing or has had practical  
4 training and experience of a grade and character satisfactory to the board for not less than  
5 two years under the supervision of a licensed dispensing optician, a licensed physician,  
6 or a licensed optometrist, provided that any time spent in a recognized school shall be  
7 considered as part of the apprenticeship period. The practical training and experience  
8 required under this paragraph for an apprenticeship shall include, at a minimum, 3,000  
9 hours of experience engaged in apprenticeship functions and shall include instruction in  
10 ophthalmic optics, optical laboratory materials and techniques, eye anatomy and  
11 physiology, related laws and regulations, ophthalmic dispensing theory and application,  
12 and basic contact lens theory. Prior to beginning an apprenticeship, the applicant shall  
13 register with the board. The registration shall identify the supervising licensed physician,  
14 licensed optometrist, or licensed dispensing optician and the mailing address and  
15 telephone number of the primary location where the apprenticeship training shall occur;  
16 provided, however, that in addition to the primary location, such training may be  
17 furnished at other locations under proper supervision. The board shall develop a list of  
18 textbooks and instructional materials to guide the apprentice and supervisors in providing  
19 the appropriate apprenticeship instruction. Upon completion by the applicant, such  
20 training and experience shall be certified by the supervising licensed dispensing optician,  
21 licensed physician or licensed optometrist to the board.

22 (c) Applicants who have received practical training and experience in the trade or  
23 occupation of dispensing optician prior to July 1, 2008, shall receive credit toward the  
24 practical training and experience requirements of paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this  
25 Code section if they register with the board in accordance with the provisions of said  
26 paragraph no later than August 31, 2008.

27 (d) Applicants may also meet the educational requirements of this Code section by  
28 receiving a certificate from recognized schools of opticianry with the Georgia Department  
29 of Technical and Adult Education or formal home study programs through the Career  
30 Progression Program with the National Academy of Opticianry or other programs approved  
31 by the board.

32 (e) Applicants for examination may be examined by the board upon matters pertaining  
33 to mathematics and physics, ophthalmic materials and laboratory technique, ophthalmic  
34 optics, ophthalmic dispensing, and practical subjects. When any applicant passes the  
35 necessary examination and meets the qualifications set out, the board shall issue a license  
36 to such person to practice the trade or occupation of dispensing optician.

## SECTION 2.

### SECTION 3.

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