

**Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the
Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1159
(Human Services Committee)
(At the request of the State Board of Optometry)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 43-13-17 and 43-13-18 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to licensure of optometrists by examination and endorsement.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 43-13-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-13-17. Application for ~~examination~~ licensure - Contents - Educational requirements - Fee for ~~examination~~. Any person desiring to take the examination for or to secure a license to practice optometry in this state shall file with the secretary of the board, ~~at least five days before the date of the examination,~~ a written application ~~for examination in the form prescribed by the board.~~ An application for admission by examination must be filed at least fifteen days before the date of the examination. ~~The application must be accompanied by the affidavits of two residents of this state to the effect that the applicant is of good moral character.~~ The applicant also shall furnish satisfactory proof that the applicant:

1. Is at least eighteen years of age;
2. ~~Has attended high school for four years or has the equivalent of such an education~~ Is a person of good moral character; and
3. Is a graduate of an optometry school or college accredited by the council on optometric education ~~of the American optometric association.~~

~~Before receiving a license, the~~ The applicant shall pay to the secretary of the board a registration fee of a reasonable sum fixed by the board.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 43-13-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

43-13-18. ~~When examination not required~~ Licensure by endorsement. An applicant may secure a license to practice optometry in this state without taking ~~the required examination upon all required examinations~~ as follows:

1. Presentation of a certified copy or an original certificate of registration or license in good standing issued to him the applicant by another state where the requirements for license are equivalent to those of this state ~~and where like privileges are accorded to holders of licenses issued in this state; and~~
2. Payment of a reasonable sum fixed by the board: ; and
3. Unless waived by the board, all applicants for licensure by endorsement must:
 - a. Apply for the highest level of therapeutic licensure in this state.
 - b. Be current in the continuing education requirements of their current state of licensure.
 - c. Pass a North Dakota state optometry law examination as required by the board to be given at such times and places as are prescribed by the board.

- d. Have a minimum of four years of practice, federal service, or teaching experience as a licensed optometrist prior to making application.
- e. Have not committed any act that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board.
- f. Submit to an oral interview before such persons and at a time and place as prescribed by the board.

The board may give or require a practical examination ~~to~~ of the applicant if it is deemed necessary.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1159.

House Vote: Yeas 86 Nays 10 Absent 2

Senate Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 3

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 1999.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State