Agency Name: Board of Examiners in Optometry - Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Statutory Authority: 40-1-70 and 40‑37‑40(A)(7)

Document Number: 4855

Proposed in State Register Volume and Issue: 42/10

House Committee: Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee

Senate Committee: Medical Affairs Committee

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Status: Final

Subject: Licensing Requirements; Continuing Education; and Licensure By Endorsement

History: 4855

By Date Action Description Jt. Res. No. Expiration Date

- 10/26/2018 Proposed Reg Published in SR

- 01/08/2019 Received by Lt. Gov & Speaker 05/08/2019

H 01/08/2019 Referred to Committee

S 01/08/2019 Referred to Committee

H 04/11/2019 Committee Requested Withdrawal

 120 Day Period Tolled

- 04/11/2019 Withdrawn and Resubmitted 05/08/2019

- 05/08/2019 Approved by: Expiration Date

- 05/24/2019 Effective Date unless otherwise

 provided for in the Regulation

Document No. 4855

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION**

**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY**

CHAPTER 95

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 40‑1‑70 and 40‑37‑40(A)(7)

95‑3. Licensure Requirements.

95‑4. Continuing Education.

95‑5. Licensure By Endorsement.

**Synopsis:**

 The South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry proposes to amend: R.95‑3 to eliminate the requirement that all portions of the national examination be passed; R.95‑4 to reduce continuing education requirements, require the use of an electronic continuing education tracking service offered through the Agency, and establish the number of hours of online CE credits that may be obtained during the biennial licensure period; and R.95‑5 to eliminate and modify certain requirements for obtaining licensure by endorsement.

 A Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on September 28, 2018.

**Instructions:**

 Replace regulation as shown below. All other items and sections remain unchanged.

**Text:**

95‑3. Licensure Requirements.

 A. All schools or colleges of optometry that hold accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Optometric Education are approved by the Board as the basis for licensure. Schools or colleges accredited by other bodies will be considered on a case by case basis for approval.

 B. As a prerequisite for initial licensure, an applicant must have a passing score on the South Carolina Optometric Jurisprudence Examination and a passing score on parts one (I), two (II), and three (III) of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination or the equivalent as determined by the Board.

95‑4. Continuing Education.

 A. Each licensee seeking renewal of a license must certify completion of forty (40) hours of continuing education (CE) for the biennial licensure period. Continuing education instruction must be on subjects relative to optometry.

 B. Each licensee shall report CE hours to the electronic tracking system designated by the Department for CE compliance and monitoring.

 C. CPR certification courses are approved for four hours; CPR re‑certification courses are approved for two hours.

 D. An unlimited number of CE hours can be from courses sponsored by optometric or medical organizations or optometry or medical schools as approved by the Board.

 E. No more than ten (10) of the forty (40) CE hours required for a biennial licensure period can be from online course unless otherwise approved by the Board.

95‑5. Licensure By Endorsement.

 A. To demonstrate that he or she is currently licensed and practicing at the therapeutic level in another jurisdiction, an endorsement candidate should provide evidence of active practice for the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding application or in the alternative evidence of active practice during twenty four (24) of the last thirty six (36) months.

 B. An endorsement candidate must obtain a passing score on the South Carolina Optometric Jurisprudence Examination and furnish proof of a passing score on parts one (I), two (II) and three (III) of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry examination or its equivalent as determined by the Board as prerequisites for licensure by endorsement.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

 There will be no cost incurred by the State or any of its political subdivisions for these regulations.

**Statement of Rationale:**

 The rationale behind the proposed regulation changes is to reduce the regulatory burden on licensees of this state and those wishing to become licensed in this state while continuing to afford the public the protections afforded by regulating a profession or occupation.