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**Health Care & Wellness Committee**

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**HB 2462**

**Brief Description:** Concerning the practice of opticianry.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Green, Campbell, Ericksen, Bailey, Cody, Simpson and Goodman.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Allows students in an opticianry program to practice opticianry without a license as long as such practice is part of his or her education program.

**Hearing Date:** 1/12/10

**Staff:** Jim Morishima (786-7191).

**Background:**

A licensed dispensing optician is a person who:

- prepares duplications of, or prepares and dispenses, lenses, spectacles, or eyeglasses based on written prescriptions from physicians or optometrists; and
- measures, adapts, adjusts, and fabricates lenses, spectacles, or eyeglasses based on such prescriptions.

A person qualifies for licensure as a dispensing optician if he or she:

- is at least 18 years of age;
- is of good moral character;
- has either:
  - completed a three year apprenticeship; or
  - completed a prescribed course in opticianry in a college or university approved by the Secretary of Health; and
- passes an examination.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

There are no statutory provisions allowing a student studying opticianry in a college or university to participate in a practicum without a license. Such students must therefore designate themselves as apprentices in order to complete these requirements.

**Summary of Bill:**

A regularly enrolled student in a prescribed course in opticianry in a college or university approved by the Secretary of Health may practice opticianry without a license as long as the practice is pursuant to a regular course of instruction or assignments from an instructor and as long as the student is supervised by a licensed dispensing optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist. A person practicing in this manner must be clearly identified as a student.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.