

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2462

As Passed House:
January 28, 2010

Title: An act relating to permitting regularly enrolled students in a prescribed course of opticianry to practice under supervision without registering as an apprentice with the department of health.

Brief Description: Concerning the practice of opticianry.

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

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 1/12/10, 1/15/10 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 1/28/10, 97-0.

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.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Driscoll, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller and Pedersen.

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, adopts, adjusts, and fabricates lenses, spectacles, or eyeglasses based on such prescriptions.

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.

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.

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.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill will allow students to participate in clinical training without having to become apprentices. This bill has been fully vetted by stakeholders.

(Opposed) none.

Persons Testifying: Representative Green, prime sponsor; and Lisa Thatcher and Diane Charles, Optician's Association of Washington

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.