

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6227

As Reported by House Committee On: Health Care & Wellness

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: Senators Becker, Marr, Parlette and Keiser.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 2/18/10, 2/23/10 [DP].

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 13 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Driscoll, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Campbell, Clibborn, Green, Herrera, Hinkle, Kelley, Moeller, Morrell 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.

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

- is at least 18 years of age;

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- 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 (Secretary); 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 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 make it easier to move from one program to another without incurring cost. The stakeholders are all in agreement regarding this bill.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Senator Becker, prime sponsor; and Lisa Thatcher, Optician's Association of Washington.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.