

No. 370

OSTEOPATHY—BOARDS OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS—LICENSES TO PRACTICE OSTEOPATHY

Held: Applicants for license to practice osteopathy may complete four school years of eight months each in less time than four calendar years, if practice of reputable schools of osteopathy during war period is to press the regular course of "four school years of eight months each" into a space of time less than four calendar years. The state board of osteopathic examiners may recognize such training as sufficient under the statute.

March 6, 1942.

Dr. Asa Willard, Member
State Board of Osteopathic Examiners
Wilma Theater Building
Missoula, Montana

Dear Dr. Willard:

You have asked the opinion of this office with respect to the following question:

"Along with the universities, technical schools and medical colleges, the recognized osteopathic colleges, to meet the present emergency, have arranged their courses to run through vacations—twelve straight months. That allows the student to finish his course sooner, though putting the same time in classes. Do you see any objection to the Board's recognizing the certificates of those in these war times who put in these school years but do not put in four whole calendar years?"

Section 3127 of the Revised Codes of Montana of 1935 relates to the application of persons for license to practice osteopathy and to examination of the same. Part of said Section is as follows:

"All graduates of reputable schools of osteopathy who present themselves for examination and who have graduated later than January, 1919, shall present satisfactory evidence to the board of having actually attended such a school for a period of not less than **four school years of eight months each**, which was preceded by a four-years' course or its scholastic equivalent."

Obviously, the above requirement contemplates that applicants for license to practice osteopathy shall have had thirty-two months of schooling, being four school years of eight months each. Your letter states that,

in courses crowded into less time than four calendar years, the students are "putting in the same time in classes." Under this state of facts students are actually putting in four school years of eight months each—although, by omitting vacations, such time can be put in within a shorter period than four calendar years.

It is my opinion applicants for license to practice osteopathy may complete four school years of eight months each in less time than four calendar years if practice of the reputable schools of osteopathy during the war period is to press the regular course of "four school years of eight months each" into a space of time less than four calendar years. The state board of osteopathic examiners may recognize such training as sufficient under the statute.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. BONNER
Attorney General