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HOUSE BILL NO. 359

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INTRODUCED BY Simpkins

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING THE LICENSURE OF OPTOMETRISTS BASED ON
5 ENDORSEMENT OF CREDENTIALS; CHANGING RECIPROCITY PROVISIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS
6 37-10-304 AND 37-10-308, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTION 37-10-303, MCA."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 1. Licensure by endorsement.** An applicant who satisfies the
11 requirements of this section may be granted a certificate of registration at the discretion of the board
12 without examination. An applicant who meets the qualifications set forth in 37-10-302 may request
13 licensure based on the applicant's credentials as long as the applicant:

14 (1) files an application under oath on forms supplied by the board;

15 (2) furnishes satisfactory proof to the board that the applicant has been licensed by examination
16 in another state that has qualifications equal to or exceeding those required in this state;

17 (3) provides proof to the board that the applicant possesses a doctor of optometry degree from
18 a school or college approved and accredited by the board and that the degree was obtained after
19 completion of a course of study as required in 37-10-302; and

20 (4) has been actively engaged in the practice of optometry in any state or in federal service for 5
21 consecutive years immediately prior to the year in which application is made.

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23 **Section 2.** Section 37-10-304, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"37-10-304. Course in use of diagnostic and therapeutic drugs required.** (1) (a) In addition to the
25 requirements of 37-10-302 or 37-10-303, ~~whichever is applicable~~, each person desiring to commence the
26 practice of optometry shall satisfactorily complete a course prescribed by the board of medical examiners,
27 with consultation and approval by the board of optometrists, with particular emphasis on the topical
28 application of diagnostic agents to the eye for the purpose of examination of the human eye and the
29 analysis of ocular functions.

30 (b) A person presently licensed to practice optometry who wishes to employ diagnostic agents

1 ~~must is required to~~ satisfactorily complete a course referred to in subsection (1)(a) and ~~must is required to~~
2 pass an examination as provided in subsection (1)(d).

3 (c) The course referred to in subsection (1)(a) must be conducted by an institution accredited by
4 a regional or professional accreditation organization ~~which that~~ is recognized or approved by the national
5 commission on accrediting or the United States commissioner of education. The course must also be
6 approved by the board.

7 (d) The board shall provide for an examination in competency in the use of diagnostic drugs and
8 shall issue a certificate to those applicants who pass ~~such the~~ examination.

9 (2) (a) In addition to the requirements of 37-10-302 or 37-10-303, ~~whichever is applicable~~, each
10 person desiring to commence the practice of optometry shall:

11 (i) pass an examination, of the international association of boards of examiners in optometry, on
12 the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular disease; or

13 (ii) take a course and pass an examination in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular
14 diseases. The course and examination must be conducted by an institution accredited by a regional or
15 professional accreditation organization ~~which that~~ is recognized or approved by the national commission
16 on accrediting or the United States commissioner of education. The course and examination must also be
17 approved by the board.

18 (b) A person presently licensed to practice optometry who wishes to employ therapeutic
19 pharmaceutical agents must meet the requirements of subsection (2)(a).

20 (c) The board shall:

21 (i) provide for an examination in competency in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of
22 therapeutic pharmaceutical agents; and

23 (ii) issue a certificate to an applicant who passes ~~such the~~ examination."

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25 **Section 3.** Section 37-10-308, MCA, is amended to read:

26 **"37-10-308. Continuing education required for license renewal.** An optometrist licensed pursuant
27 to 37-10-302 or 37-10-303 is required to attend not less than 12 hours annually of scientific clinics,
28 forums, or optometric educational studies as may be provided or approved by the board as a prerequisite
29 for license renewal. A copy of this section must be sent to each licensee by the department prior to the
30 license renewal date each year. The board may exempt from this requirement those licensees who submit

1 satisfactory proof that they were prevented from attending educational programs during the preceding year
2 due to illness or for other good reason."

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4 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 4. Repealer.** Section 37-10-303, MCA, is repealed.

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6 **NEW SECTION.** **Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
7 integral part of Title 37, chapter 10, part 3, and the provisions of Title 37, chapter 10, part 3, apply to
8 [section 1].

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