HB 7059 2018

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to optometry; amending s. 463.006,

F.S.; requiring the Department of Health to license an applicant for licensure and certification as an optometrist when the applicant meets specified requirements; removing the requirements for examination fees for certification and licensure; requiring a fee for licensure; revising application requirements to include obtaining a passing score on a certain licensure examination within a specified period; authorizing the Board of Optometry to establish rules for a passing score; removing specific topics that must be tested on the licensure examination; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 463.006, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.-

(1) Any person desiring to be a licensed practitioner pursuant to this chapter shall apply to the department to take the licensure and certification examinations. The department shall license examine each applicant who the board determines

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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(a) Completed the application forms as required by the board, remitted an application fee for certification not to exceed \$250, remitted an examination fee for certification not to exceed \$250, and remitted a an examination fee for licensure not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

- (b) Submitted proof satisfactory to the department that she or he:
 - 1. Is at least 18 years of age.

- 2. Has graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry approved by rule of the board.
 - 3. Is of good moral character.
- 4. Has successfully completed at least 110 hours of transcript-quality coursework and clinical training in general and ocular pharmacology as determined by the board, at an institution that:
- a. Has facilities for both didactic and clinical instructions in pharmacology; and
- b. Is accredited by a regional or professional accrediting organization that is recognized and approved by the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States Department of Education.
- 5. Has completed at least 1 year of supervised experience in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the optometric experience.

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- (2) The examination shall consist of the appropriate subjects, including applicable state laws and rules and general and ocular pharmacology with emphasis on the use and side effects of ocular pharmaceutical agents. The board may by rule substitute a national examination as part or all of the examination and may by rule offer a practical examination in addition to the written examination.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.