

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1159**

Introduced by

Human Services Committee

(At the request of the State Board of Optometry)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 43-13-17 and 43-13-18 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to licensure of optometrists by examination and endorsement.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-13-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **43-13-17. Application for ~~examination~~ licensure - Contents - Educational**  
7 **requirements - Fee for examination.** Any person desiring to take the examination for or to  
8 secure a license to practice optometry in this state shall file with the secretary of the board, ~~at~~  
9 ~~least five days before the date of the examination,~~ a written application for examination in the  
10 form prescribed by the board. An application for admission by examination must be filed at  
11 least fifteen days before the date of the examination. ~~The application must be accompanied by~~  
12 ~~the affidavits of two residents of this state to the effect that the applicant is of good moral~~  
13 ~~character.~~ The applicant also shall furnish satisfactory proof that the applicant:

- 14 1. Is at least eighteen years of age;
- 15 2. ~~Has attended high school for four years or has the equivalent of such an education~~  
16 Is a person of good moral character; and
- 17 3. Is a graduate of an optometry school or college accredited by the council on  
18 optometric education ~~of the American optometric association.~~

19 ~~Before receiving a license, the~~ The applicant shall pay to the secretary of the board a  
20 registration fee of a reasonable sum fixed by the board.

21 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 43-13-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1           **43-13-18. ~~When examination not required~~ Licensure by endorsement.** An  
2 applicant may secure a license to practice optometry in this state without taking ~~the required~~  
3 ~~examination upon~~ all required examinations as follows:
- 4           1. Presentation of a certified copy or an original certificate of registration or license in  
5           good standing issued to ~~him~~ the applicant by another state where the requirements  
6           for license are equivalent to those of this state ~~and where like privileges are~~  
7           ~~accorded to holders of licenses issued in this state; and~~
  - 8           2. Payment of a reasonable sum fixed by the board: ; and
  - 9           3. Unless waived by the board, all applicants for licensure by endorsement must:
    - 10           a. Apply for the highest level of therapeutic licensure in this state.
    - 11           b. Be current in the continuing education requirements of their current state of  
12           licensure.
    - 13           c. Pass a North Dakota state optometry law examination as required by the  
14           board to be given at such times and places as are prescribed by the board.
    - 15           d. Have a minimum of four years of practice, federal service, or teaching  
16           experience as a licensed optometrist prior to making application.
    - 17           e. Have not committed any act that would constitute grounds for disciplinary  
18           action under this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board.
    - 19           f. Submit to an oral interview before such persons and at a time and place as  
20           prescribed by the board.
- 21 The board may give or require a practical examination ~~to~~ of the applicant if it is deemed  
22 necessary.