

No. 29

AN ACT

SB 570

Amending the act of March 30, 1917 (P.L.21, No.10), entitled "An act defining optometry; and relating to the right to practice optometry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and making certain exceptions; and providing a Board of Optometrical Education, Examination, and Licensure, and means and methods whereby the right to practice optometry may be obtained; and providing for the means to carry out the provisions of this act; and providing for revocation or suspension of licenses given by said board, and providing penalties for violations thereof; and repealing all acts or parts of acts inconsistent therewith," further defining the practice of optometry and the educational requirements necessary to take the examination.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 1, act of March 30, 1917 (P.L.21, No.10), entitled "An act defining optometry; and relating to the right to practice optometry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and making certain exceptions; and providing a Board of Optometrical Education, Examination, and Licensure, and means and methods whereby the right to practice optometry may be obtained; and providing for the means to carry out the provisions of this act; and providing for revocation or suspension of licenses given by said board, and providing penalties for violations thereof; and repealing all acts or parts of acts inconsistent therewith," amended August 17, 1951 (P.L.1280, No.306), is amended to read:

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the practice of optometry is hereby defined to be the employment of any means or methods, other than the use of [drugs or] surgery, *or drugs, except diagnostic pharmaceutical agents known generically as cycloplegics, mydriatics, topical anesthetics and miotics which are administered topically* for the examination of the human eye and the analysis of ocular functions, or the prescribing, providing, furnishing, adapting or employing any or all kinds and types of lenses and prisms, visual training orthoptics, ocular exercises, and any and all preventive and corrective methods for the aid, correction or relief of the human eye, its associated structures, appendages and functions, other than the use of drugs or surgery. *The Secretary of Health shall designate the specific agents to be used under the above generic classification: Provided, however, That with respect to optometrists licensed at the time of the effective date of this amendatory act, only such licensed optometrists who (i) have satisfactorily completed a course in pharmacology, as it applies to optometry, by an institution accredited by a regional or professional accreditation organization which is recognized or approved by the*

National Commission on Accrediting or the United States Commissioner of Education, with particular emphasis on the topical application of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents to the eye for the purpose of examination of the human eye and the analysis of ocular functions, approved by the State Board of Optometrical Examiners, and (ii) who upon successful completion of such course shall be permitted by the State Board of Optometrical Examiners in Optometry to use diagnostic pharmaceutical agents topically in the practice of optometry. Whenever an optometrist during the course of his examination of a person shall determine the possibility of the existence of a pathological condition he shall advise the person of such opinion and refer such person to a physician for further evaluation.

The term "optometrist" means a person who practices optometry in accordance with the provisions of this act.

Section 2. Section 5 of the act, amended May 13, 1925 (P.L.659, No.354), is amended to read:

Section 5. Every person desiring to commence the practice of optometry, or, if now in practice, to continue the practice thereof after January first, one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, except as herein otherwise provided, shall take the examination provided in this act, and satisfy the other requirements hereof as here provided. Any person who has been engaged in the practice of optometry in this Commonwealth for two full years prior to the passage of this act, or for one year in this and for the year preceding it in another State, and is of good character, shall be entitled to take a limited examination covering the following only:

- (a) The limitation of the sphere of optometry.
- (b) The necessary scientific instruments used.
- (c) The form and power of lenses used.
- (d) A correct method of measuring presbyopia, hypermetropia, myopia, and astigmatism.
- (e) The writing of formulae or prescriptions for the adaptation of lenses in aid of vision.

The board shall also permit the taking of limited examinations by, and the license, of any person who shall apply therefor before the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two, who, at the time of the passage of the act to which this is an amendment or the time when the limited examinations under said act were held, was unavoidably absent from this State on account of service in the army or navy of the United States, or who was at such time or times otherwise unavoidably absent from this State, or was physically handicapped and unable to take such examination: Provided, however, That any such person shall have engaged in the practice of optometry in this Commonwealth for two full years prior to the passage of the act to which this is an amendment, or for one year in this Commonwealth and one year in another State, and shall be of good character.

Any person who, at the time of the passage of the act to which this is an amendment, was unavoidably absent from this State on account of service in the army or navy of the United States, or who was otherwise unavoidably absent from this State, or was physically handicapped and unable to take the examination, and who was actually engaged in the practice of optometry, but who had engaged in such practice less than two years; and any person over the age of twenty-one years, of good moral character, who has had a preliminary education equivalent to two years of the course of high school, and, after the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five, has had a preliminary education equivalent to a four-year high school course, whose standard is approved by the **[Department of Public Instruction] Department of Education**,—which preliminary education shall be ascertained by examination or by acceptable certificate as to credentials for work done in such approved institution,—and has graduated from a school or college of optometry, approved by the **[Department of Public Instruction] Department of Education** as recommended by the State Board of Optometrical Examiners, on satisfactory completion of a course in optometry of not less than three years shall be entitled to take a standard examination. Said standard examination shall consist of tests in practical, theoretical, and physiological optics, in theoretical and practical optometry, and in the anatomy and physiology of the eye, and in *pharmacology and pathology* as **[applied] they apply** to optometry: Provided, That any person, not less than twenty-one years of age, who is actually engaged in the practice of optometry at the time of the passage of this act shall be entitled to take the standard examination merely upon proof to the board that he is of good moral character and is not addicted to the intemperate use of alcohol or narcotic drugs.

APPROVED—The 1st day of March, A. D. 1974.

MILTON J. SHAPP

The foregoing is a true and correct copy of Act of the General Assembly No. 29.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. McLaughlin Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and "T".

Secretary of the Commonwealth.