

By Mr. White of Boston, petition of W. Paul White and another for legislation to require continuing education courses for registered dispensing opticians. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

AN ACT TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE EDUCATION OF REGISTERED DISPENSING OPTICIANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 112 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 after section 73L the following new section: —

3 *Section 73M.* All licensed dispensing opticians now and hereaf-
4 ter, unless exempt by this rule, shall be required to take continuing
5 education courses and optical dispensing opticians shall be re-
6 quired to show four hours of continuing education for every two
7 years of renewal. In no event will the Board require less than four
8 hours nor more than eight hours for any two year renewal.

9 With the application for license renewal, each optician must
10 submit a certificate of attendance for course hours completed as
11 proof that the continuing education requirement has been satis-
12 fied. The Board may give credit for any course that increases the
13 education of a dispensing optician by any recognized National,
14 Regional or State dispensing society or association or optical
15 school approved by the Board. The Board may approve continuing
16 education courses to be held within or without the Common-
17 wealth. The Board shall approve only such courses as can be
18 attended by all licensed opticians in the Commonwealth. The
19 sponsors of any such course must submit a complete course outline
20 and other details concerning the program to the Board for approv-
21 al at least ninety days prior to the proposed date of the course. The
22 Board may act upon any request forty-five days prior to the
23 proposed date and may thereupon notify all licensed opticians of

24 the time, place, contents and charges for any approved course. A
25 certificate of attendance shall be issued by the sponsor to the
26 optician upon completion of the approved course. Credit will be
27 allowed on the basis of one credit hour per clock hour of course
28 attendance.

29 Any optician failing to complete the educational requirements
30 shall have his or her license restored upon supplying to the Board
31 satisfactory proof of subsequent completion of the required course
32 hours and payment to the Board of a penalty of not less than one
33 hundred dollars. The Board may waive the requirement for any
34 two year period upon proof of extreme hardship or disability.

35 This section shall not apply to persons over sixty-five years of
36 age who have been engaged in full time optical dispensing for a
37 minimum of fifteen years, or to military personnel on active duty.