



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB5800

Introduced 11/16/2022, by Rep. Robert Rita

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

225 ILCS 80/16

from Ch. 111, par. 3916

Amends the Illinois Optometric Practice Act of 1987. Provides that beginning April 1, 2024, all continuing education may be completed online through live, real-time presentations or by pre-recorded video provided by an approved continuing education sponsor. Provides that an approved continuing education sponsor is a person, firm, association, corporation, or another entity that has been recommended by the Illinois Optometric Licensing and Disciplinary Board to coordinate and present continuing education courses or programs and approved by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

LRB102 28546 AMQ 40423 b

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Optometric Practice Act of 1987 is
5 amended by changing Section 16 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 80/16) (from Ch. 111, par. 3916)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2027)

8 Sec. 16. Renewal, reinstatement, or restoration of
9 licenses; military service. The expiration date and renewal
10 period for each license issued under this Act shall be set by
11 rule.

12 All renewal applicants shall provide proof of having met
13 the requirements of continuing education set forth in the
14 rules of the Department. The Department shall, by rule,
15 provide for an orderly process for the reinstatement of
16 licenses which have not been renewed due to failure to meet the
17 continuing education requirements. The continuing education
18 requirement may be waived for such good cause, including, but
19 not limited to, illness or hardship, as defined by rules of the
20 Department.

21 The Department shall establish by rule a means for the
22 verification of completion of the continuing education
23 required by this Section. This verification may be

1 accomplished through audits of records maintained by
2 registrants; by requiring the filing of continuing education
3 certificates with the Department; or by other means
4 established by the Department.

5 Beginning April 1, 2024, all continuing education, except
6 for certified courses or transcript quality courses that meet
7 the requirements of 68 Ill. Adm. Code 1320.80(b)(2)(A), may be
8 completed online through live, real-time presentations or by
9 pre-recorded video provided by an approved continuing
10 education sponsor. An approved continuing education sponsor is
11 a person, firm, association, corporation, or another entity
12 that has been recommended by the Board to coordinate and
13 present continuing education courses or programs and approved
14 by the Department.

15 Any licensee seeking renewal of his or her license during
16 the renewal cycle beginning April 1, 2008 must first complete
17 a tested educational course in the use of oral pharmaceutical
18 agents for the management of ocular conditions, as approved by
19 the Board.

20 Any optometrist who has permitted his or her license to
21 expire or who has had his or her license on inactive status may
22 have his or her license restored by making application to the
23 Department and filing proof acceptable to the Department of
24 his or her fitness to have his or her license restored and by
25 paying the required fees. Such proof of fitness may include
26 evidence certifying to active lawful practice in another

1 jurisdiction and must include proof of the completion of the
2 continuing education requirements specified in the rules for
3 the preceding license renewal period that has been completed
4 during the 2 years prior to the application for license
5 restoration.

6 The Department shall determine, by an evaluation program
7 established by rule, his or her fitness for restoration of his
8 or her license and shall establish procedures and requirements
9 for such restoration.

10 However, any optometrist whose license expired while he or
11 she was (1) in Federal Service on active duty with the Armed
12 Forces of the United States, or the State Militia called into
13 service or training, or (2) in training or education under the
14 supervision of the United States preliminary to induction into
15 the military service, may have his or her license restored
16 without paying any lapsed renewal fees if within 2 years after
17 honorable termination of such service, training, or education,
18 he or she furnishes the Department with satisfactory evidence
19 to the effect that he or she has been so engaged and that his
20 or her service, training, or education has been so terminated.

21 All licenses without "Therapeutic Certification" on March
22 31, 2006 shall be placed on non-renewed status and may only be
23 renewed after the licensee meets those requirements
24 established by the Department that may not be waived. All
25 licensees on March 31, 2010 without a certification of
26 completion of an oral pharmaceutical course as required by

1 this Section shall be placed on non-renewed status and may
2 only be renewed after the licensee meets those requirements
3 established by the Department that may not be waived.

4 (Source: P.A. 95-242, eff. 1-1-08; 96-270, eff. 1-1-10.)