PA HB 2386
Optician Certification and Consumer Vision Protection Act

April 23, 2026

High-level comparison: Original bill (filed) → Final revision (PA HB 2386-Revised)

Since HB2386 was filed, UOA staff and committee members have engaged scores of interested people, listening to their comments and suggestions on ways to improve and streamline the proposed legislation.

To date, no one has outright opposed the bill. There is consensus that the need exists to require opticians "get certified and stay certified". The most concise and legal wording to maximize flawless implementation processes is where the comments and suggestions have taken shape.

The revised Optician Registration Act creates a verification-based registration system. The State verifies and registers only those who hold current certification from the State Board of Opticianry approved certifying organization. This bill preserves national certification standards and adds supervisory safeguards to protect patients.

Below is a summary of the original bill as filed and a comparison of the 1st revision that was circulated to several interested parties along with the final revised bill that we plan to submit to our bill sponsor for discussion. The original bill and the proposed revised bill are included in this document with a clean draft of the revisions as the first document, a redline of the revisions as the second document and the original bill as the final document.

We welcome respectful comments in writing.

Please email Gwen Cooper MPA CFRE, UOA Executive Director gcooper@opticians.org or John Shaw, OAP Board President johns@newpathvision.com

Core approach

- **Original bill as introduced):** Mixed approach that included certification plus explicit state education/CE/apprenticeship requirements (e.g., associate degree, 2,400 apprenticeship hours, tri-annual CE minimums).
- **1st revision draft:** Also certification-based but retained many prescriptive education/apprenticeship/CE elements and stricter board composition based on case

law challenging state board composition (three certified opticians, tri-annual renewal language in places).

- **Final revision (PA HB 2386-Revised): Certification-only registration**: the state registers based on proof of current certification from a board-approved certifying organization; the state does not statutorily impose additional education, apprenticeship, or CE requirements above what is required by the board-approved certifying organization.

State role vs. certifier role

- **Original / 1st revision draft:** State statute contained substantive competency requirements (degrees, hours, CE minimum) that duplicated or exceeded national certification standards.
- **Final revision:** State role limited to **verification and oversight** — approving certifying organizations, maintaining a public registry, enforcing registration and discipline — while leaving training and CE standards to the certifying bodies.

Continuing education and renewal cycle

- **Original / 1st revision draft:** Specific CE credit requirements and tri- or biennial cycles spelled out in statute (e.g., 9 spectacle credits, 12 contact lens credits, in person, tri-annual in the PDF).
- **Final revision:** Renewal tied to **maintaining active certification** with the approved certifying body. The board does not set independent CE hours in statute.

Education and apprenticeship prerequisites

- **Original / 1st revision:** Statutory pathways included associate degree, 2,400 apprenticeship hours, or CTE program completion as registration prerequisites if the person was not already certified upon implementation.
- **Final revision:** Those statutory prerequisites were **removed**; passing/holding certification is the registration trigger (the certifying body may require education/apprenticeship as part of its own eligibility rules but the state does not). Currently, the only opticianry certifying body, does not require specific education or apprenticeship documentation.

Board composition and powers

- **Original / 1st revision:** Variations in member counts and duties (1st revision had three certified opticians, explicit CE-approval duties).
- **Final revision:** Balanced board (two registered opticians, one retail employer rep, one ophthalmologist/optometrist, one public member), duties focused on oversight: maintaining registry, enforcing registration, and coordinating certification verification.

The final draft also adds **Department of State active supervision** over major board actions.

Transitional provisions

- **Original / 1st revision:** Varied transitional windows (the revision drafts had 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, or 24 months for different groups).
- **Final revision:** Clear, limited transitional windows tied to the board's publication of registration opening. In the proposed final revision, currently certified opticians will have **3 months** to apply once the Board and registration system is operational. Experienced (3 years in the field) but uncertified opticians will have **6 months** to obtain certification and apply (and may continue to practice during the window).
- **Final revision:** The law gives the Board up to 12 months after enactment to open registration. Experienced opticians who are not yet certified then have 6 months after the Board opens registration to obtain certification and apply. So in practice, an experienced but uncertified optician may have as much as 18 months from enactment to comply.

Co-location / supervision language

- **Original / 1st revision:** Exclusions for individuals acting under supervision included co-location/lease/management arrangements but did not require an express supervisory agreement.
- **Final revision:** The co-location/lease/management exclusion was **clarified** by adding a contemporaneous written supervisory agreement requirement that (a) expressly assigns clinical supervisory responsibility to the licensed ophthalmologist/optometrist and (b) is available for inspection by the Board. This closes the supervision gap present in earlier drafts.

Why we revised to the simplified, certification-only model

1. **Preserve a true certification-based registration model**
    - **Problem in earlier drafts:** Statutory education, apprenticeship, and CE minimums create independent state competency standards that duplicate or conflict with national certifying requirements.
    - **Fix in final draft:** Registration is triggered by **proof of current certification** from a board-approved certifying organization. Certificate holders are ultimately responsible for eligibility and maintenance standards with oversight from the State Board of Opticianry.

2. **Avoid converting registration into licensure**
    - **Problem in earlier drafts:** When the state prescribes degrees, hours, or CE beyond certification requirements, it effectively licenses the profession and fragments standards across states. This was not our intent in filing model legislation.
    - **Fix in final draft:** The board verifies certification only as part of the registration process. The Department of State review provision prevents the board from adding extra statutory requirements via regulation. Rule making authority sits with the State Board of Opticianry with oversight by the Department of State.
3. **Protect portability and workforce mobility**
    - **Problem in earlier drafts:** State-specific prerequisites (degrees, hours, CE) reduce portability for nationally certified practitioners.
    - **Fix in final draft:** Relying on national certification opens the conversation for future portability in states with similar regulations. It does not provide opportunity for reciprocity conversations in current regulated states.
4. **Streamline compliance and reduce administrative burden**
    - **Problem in earlier drafts:** Multiple statutory pathways and CE rules create complexity for practitioners and employers.
    - **Fix in final draft:** Simple registration (certification + fee) and renewal tied to certification maintenance reduces administrative overhead.
5. **Close supervision and consumer-protection gaps**
    - **Problem in earlier drafts:** Co-location/management exclusions could allow uncertified individuals to practice without clear supervisory responsibility.
    - **Fix in final draft:** Added contemporaneous written supervisory agreement requirement for co-location/lease/management exclusions so patients are protected and the Board can inspect supervisory documentation.

Practical benefits of the final draft

- **Consumer protection** via public registry and Board discipline.
- **National consistency** by deferring competency standards to certifying organizations.
- **Lower legislative risk** of legal challenges that arise when states impose disparate competency rules.
- **Predictable implementation** with clear transitional windows and Department of State oversight.

Conclusion

This legislation elevates the opticianry profession by creating a clear, credible pathway for practitioners to demonstrate and maintain competency while making those qualifications visible to the public.

By tying state registration to recognized certification and preserving national standards, the bill lets opticians showcase their expertise without imposing duplicative state requirements that fragment the workforce. The public registry, complaint process, and supervisory safeguards strengthen consumer confidence and highlight opticians' role as trusted members of the eye-care team.

Enacting this bill affirms the value of skilled opticians, supports career advancement, and ensures patients can readily identify qualified professionals.

Please direct questions and comments to Gwen Cooper MPA CFRE, UOA Executive Director gcooper@opticians.org or John Shaw, OAP Board President johns@newpathvision.com

HB 2386 Proposed Revisions April 23, 2026

AN ACT

Establishing the State Board of Opticianry; and providing for registration of opticians.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Optician Registration Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Board." The State Board of Opticianry established in section 3.

"Certification." A current certification by an organization approved by the State Board of Opticianry.

"Optician." A health care professional who provides patient education for prescription eyewear and associated optical devices, performs measurements, analyzes and interprets a prescription, prepares, fits and dispenses eyeglasses, contact lenses and related optical devices based on a prescription from an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Section 3. State Board of Opticianry.

(a) Establishment.--The State Board of Opticianry is established to oversee registration, discipline, and rulemaking.

(b) Membership.--The board shall consist of the following, chosen by the Governor:

(1) Two registered opticians who are actively practicing in this Commonwealth;

(2) One representative of a retail optical employer operating in this Commonwealth, who shall not be a registered optician;

(3) One licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist actively practicing in this Commonwealth; and

(4) One public member who has no financial interest in the practice of opticianry, optometry, ophthalmology, or the optical or eye care industries.

(5) No single category of member described in paragraphs (1) through (4) shall constitute a majority of the board. In the event a vacancy results in a category of member holding a majority of seated board members, the Governor shall fill the vacancy within 90 days.

(c) Quorum.--A majority of members must be physically present or online through a live-stream synchronous video conference or similar virtual presence technology to constitute a quorum. Members who miss three consecutive meetings without an approved excuse shall forfeit their membership.

(d) Duties.--The board shall:

(1) Enforce the registration provisions of this act;

(2) Review complaints and impose disciplinary actions under this act and regulations promulgated under this act;

(3) Approve and maintain a list of certifying organizations;

(4) Coordinate with organizations approved by the board for certification verification;

(5) Establish, by regulation, a schedule of fees for applications and renewals under this act;

(6) Obtain and maintain current roster information from each organization approved by the board for purposes of maintaining the public registry; and

(7) Maintain a publicly accessible registry of registered opticians.

(e) Active supervision.--The following board actions are subject to active supervision by the Department of State:

(1) Any decision to deny, suspend, or revoke a registration;

(2) Any decision to disapprove or decertify a certifying organization; and

(3) Any regulation that imposes requirements on registrations, certifying organizations, or continuing education providers beyond those expressly authorized in this act.

The Department of State shall review any action described in this subsection within 30 days of the board's final decision. If the supervising official determines that the action exceeds the board's authority under this act or is inconsistent with state policy, the Department of State may rescind the action. An action not rescinded within 30 days shall be deemed approved. The board shall provide the Department of State with timely notice of all actions subject to review under this subsection.

Section 4. Registration requirement.

(a) Requirement to practice.--An individual may not practice as an optician or use titles such as "optician," "dispensing optician," "optical technician" or "ophthalmic dispenser" unless the individual is registered with the board.

(b) Requirements for registration.--An applicant for registration shall apply for registration forms prescribed by the board. The board shall register an individual as a registered optician upon:

(1) Submission of proof of a current opticianry certification from an organization approved by the board;

(2) If the applicant fits contact lenses, submission of proof of a current contact lens fitting certification from an organization approved by the board. A person who dispenses contact lenses pursuant to a valid written prescription but does not fit contact lenses is not required to hold a current contact lens fitting certification; and

(3) Payment of the applicable registration fee.

Section 5. Certification maintenance and renewal.

(a) Maintaining active certification and registration.--An optician shall maintain active certification from an organization approved by the board as a condition of continued registration.

(b) Renewal.—Registration shall be renewed biennially. To renew registration, a registrant shall:

(1) Submit proof of a current certification from an organization approved by the board; and

(2) Pay the applicable renewal fee.

Section 6. Exclusions and permanent exceptions.

(a) Permanent exclusions.--This act does not apply to:

(1) A licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist practicing within the scope of their license;
(2) An individual who is acting under the general responsibility and supervision of a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist, provided that one of the following applies:
    (i) The licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist and the individual are employed by the same employer;
    (ii) The licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist is the employer of record of the individual; or
    (iii) The licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist practices under a co-location, lease, or management services arrangement with the optical dispensary where the individual works and there is a contemporaneous written supervisory agreement between the licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist and the optical dispensary or leaseholder that:
        (a) Expressly assigns clinical supervisory responsibility for the individual the licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist; and
        (b) Is available for inspection by the State Board of Opticianry upon request.
(3) A student enrolled in and actively attending an accredited opticianry program, while working under the direct responsibility and supervision of a registered optician; or
(4) An individual who is actively completing an apprenticeship supervised by a registered optician or licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist.

(b) Transitional provision for currently certified opticians.--An individual who hold a current certification from an organization approved by the board on the date the board opens registration under Section 7(b) shall have three months from that date to submit a complete registration application to the board. During this period, the individual may continue to practice as an optician.

(c) Transitional provision for experienced opticians not yet certified.--An individual who, on the date the board opens registration under Section 7(b), has three or more years of documented experience practicing opticianry in any state but does not hold a current certification from an organization approved by the board shall have six months from that date to obtain the required certification and submit a complete registration application. During this period, the individual may continue to practice as an optician.

Section 7. Effective date.

(a) General effective date.--This act shall take effect 60 days after enactment. Upon the effective date:
(1) The State Board of Opticianry is established and the Governor shall begin the process of appointing members pursuant to Section 3(b);

(2) The board is authorized to promulgate regulations, approve certifying organizations, establish a fee schedule, and take all other actions necessary to implement this act; and

(3) The exclusions set forth in Section 6(a) shall apply immediately.

(b) Registration requirement effective date.--The registration requirement of Section 4(a) shall not take effect until the board publishes notice that the registration process is open and registrations are being accepted. The board shall publish this notice no later than 12 months after the general effective date of this act.

(c) Transitional periods.--All transitional periods set forth in Section 6 shall run from the date the board publishes notice under subsection (b), not from the general effective date of this act.

(d) Board implementation deadline.--If the board fails to publish notice under subsection (b) within 12 moths of the general effective date, the Department of State shall publish the notice on the board's behalf, and the registration requirement shall take effect 30 days after the Department of State's notice.

HB 2386 Proposed Revisions April 23, 2026

AN ACT

Establishing the State Board of Opticianry; and providing for registration of opticians.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Optician ~~Certification and Consumer Vision Protection~~ Registration Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

~~"Apprenticeship." An approved supervised training under a certified optician, optometrist or ophthalmologist.~~

"Board." The State Board of Opticianry established in section 34.

"Certification." A current certification by an ~~agency~~ organization approved by the State Board of Opticianry.

~~"Certification-based registration." The process by which certified opticians are registered with the board.~~

"Optician." A health care professional who provides patient education for prescription eyewear and associated optical devices, performs measurements, analyzes and interprets a prescription, prepares, fits and dispenses eyeglasses, contact lenses and related optical devices based on a prescription from an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Section 3. State Board of Opticianry.

(a) Establishment.--The State Board of Opticianry is established to oversee registration, discipline, and rulemaking.

(b) Membership.--The board shall consist of the following, chosen by the Governor:

(1) Two registered opticians who are actively practicing in this Commonwealth;

(2) One representative of a retail optical employer operating in this Commonwealth, who shall not be a registered optician;

(3) One licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist actively practicing in this Commonwealth; and

(4) One public member who has no financial interest in the practice of opticianry, optometry, ophthalmology, or the optical or eye care industries.

(5) No single category of member described in paragraphs (1) through (4) shall constitute a majority of the board. In the event a vacancy results in a category of member holding a majority of seated board members, the Governor shall fill the vacancy within 90 days.

(c) Quorum.--A majority of members must be physically present or online through a live-stream synchronous video conference or similar virtual presence technology to constitute a quorum. Members who miss three consecutive meetings without an approved excuse shall forfeit their membership.

(d) Duties.--The board shall:

(1) Enforce the registration provisions of this act;

(2) Review complaints and impose disciplinary actions under this act and regulations promulgated under this act;

(3) Approve and maintain a list of certifying organizations;

(4) Coordinate with organizations approved by the board for certification verification;

(5) Establish, by regulation, a schedule of fees for applications and renewals under this act;

(6) Obtain and maintain current roster information from each organization approved by the board for purposes of maintaining the public registry; and

(7) Maintain a publicly accessible registry of registered opticians.

(e) Active supervision.--The following board actions are subject to active supervision by the Department of State:

(1) Any decision to deny, suspend, or revoke a registration;

(2) Any decision to disapprove or decertify a certifying organization; and

(3) Any regulation that imposes requirements on registrations, certifying organizations, or continuing education providers beyond those expressly authorized in this act.

The Department of State shall review any action described in this subsection within 30 days of the board's final decision. If the supervising official determines that the action exceeds the board's authority under this act or is inconsistent with state policy, the Department of State may rescind the action. An action not rescinded within 30 days shall be deemed approved. The board shall provide the Department of State with timely notice of all actions subject to review under this subsection.

Section 43. ~~Certification-based r~~Registration requirement.

(a) Requirement to practice.--An individual may not practice as an optician or use titles such as "optician," "dispensing optician," "optical technician" or "ophthalmic dispenser" unless the individual is registered with the board ~~board and holds a current certification~~.

(b) Requirements for registration.--An applicant for ~~certification-based~~ registration shall apply for registration forms prescribed by the board. The board shall register an individual as a registered optician upon~~submit to the board~~:

(1) Submission of p~~P~~roof of ~~passage of a certification exam approved by the State Board of Opticianry~~a current opticianry certification from an organization approved by the board;~~.~~

(2) ~~Documentation required by the board, including:~~If the applicant fits contact lenses, submission of proof of a current contact lens fitting certification from an organization approved by the board. A person who dispenses contact lenses pursuant to a valid written prescription but does not fit contact lenses is not required to hold a current contact lens fitting certification; and

~~(i) Current national opticianry certification.~~

~~(ii) If fitting contact lenses, current national contact lens certification.~~

~~(iii) Completion of minimum required continuing education by the board.~~

~~(iv) Additional requirements of the board.~~

~~(3) Proof of passage of a certification exam approved by the board and completion of one of the following:~~

~~(i) An associate degree in opticianry from a regionally accredited opticianry program as approved by the State Board of Education.~~

~~(ii) Certificate of completion of a minimum of 2,400 hours of supervised apprenticeship.~~

~~(iii) Completion of a State-approved area career and technical school education program.~~

(34) Payment of the~~an~~ applicable registration fee.

~~Section 4. State Board of Opticianry.~~

~~(a) Establishment.--The State Board of Opticianry is established to oversee certification-based registration, discipline and rulemaking.~~

~~(b) Membership.--The board shall consist of the following, chosen by the Governor:~~

~~(1) Three certified opticians.~~

~~(2) One ophthalmologist or optometrist.~~

~~(3) One public member.~~

~~(c) Quorum.--A majority of members must be physically present or online through a live-stream synchronous video conference or similar virtual presence technology to constitute a quorum. Members who miss three consecutive meetings without an approved excuse shall forfeit their membership.~~

~~(d) Duties.--The board shall:~~

~~(1) Enforce this act.~~

~~(2) Review complaints and impose disciplinary actions under this act and regulations promulgated under this act.~~

~~(3) Approve continuing education standards.~~

~~(4) Coordinate with agencies approved by the board for certification verification.~~

Section 5. Certification maintenance and renewal~~gistry~~.

(a) Maintaining active certification and registration.--An optician shall ~~must~~ maintain active certification from an organization approved by the board as a condition of ~~to practice as an optician~~continued registration.

(b) Renewal.~~--~~—Registration shall be renewed ~~Certification shall be renewed every three years~~biennially. ~~with a minimum of nine credits in spectacle education and 12~~

~~credits in contact lens education, if applicable, tri-annually received through in-person education. The board may require additional continuing education credits annually~~ To renew registration, a registrant shall:

(1) Submit proof of a current certification from an organization approved by the board; and

(2) Pay the applicable renewal fee.

~~(c) Acceptance.--The board shall annually accept an upload of certified opticians from an organization approved by the board.~~

~~(d) Public registry.--The board shall maintain a public registry of certified and registered opticians.~~

Section 6. ~~Applicability~~Exclusions and permanent exceptions.

(a) Permanent exclusions.--This act does not apply to:
- (1) A licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist practicing within the scope of their license;
- (2) An individual who is acting under the general responsibility and supervision of a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist, provided that one of the following applies:
  - (i) The licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist and the individual are employed by the same employer;
  - (ii) The licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist is the employer of record of the individual; or
  - (iii) The licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist practices under a co-location, lease, or management services arrangement with the optical dispensary where the individual works and there is a contemporaneous written supervisory agreement between the licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist and the optical dispensary or leaseholder that:
    - (a) Expressly assigns clinical supervisory responsibility for the individual the licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist; and
    - (b) Is available for inspection by the State Board of Opticianry upon request.
- (3) A student enrolled in and actively attending an accredited opticianry program, while working under the direct responsibility and supervision of a registered optician; or
- (4) An individual who is actively completing an apprenticeship supervised by a registered optician or licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist.

(b) Transitional provision for currently certified opticians.--An individual who hold a current certification from an organization approved by the board on the date the

board opens registration under Section 7(b) shall have three months from that date to submit a complete registration application to the board. During this period, the individual may continue to practice as an optician.

(c) Transitional provision for experienced opticians not yet certified.--An individual who, on the date the board opens registration under Section 7(b), has three or more years of documented experience practicing opticianry in any state but does not hold a current certification from an organization approved by the board shall have six months from that date to obtain the required certification and submit a complete registration application. During this period, the individual may continue to practice as an optician.

~~This act applies as follows:~~

~~(1) This act shall not apply to:~~

~~(i) Ophthalmologists or optometrists.~~

~~(ii) Technicians working under the supervision of a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist.~~

~~(iii) Students in accredited opticianry programs under supervision.~~

~~(2) An optician with 10 or more years of documented professional experience prior to the effective date of this paragraph shall be exempt from certification requirements for a period of 24 months. Opticians with a current license from another state shall have three months to reinstate their certification with the agency approved by the board.~~

Section 7. Effective date.

~~This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

(a) General effective date.--This act shall take effect 60 days after enactment. Upon the effective date:

(1) The State Board of Opticianry is established and the Governor shall begin the process of appointing members pursuant to Section 3(b);

(2) The board is authorized to promulgate regulations, approve certifying organizations, establish a fee schedule, and take all other actions necessary to implement this act; and

(3) The exclusions set forth in Section 6(a) shall apply immediately.

(b) Registration requirement effective date.--The registration requirement of Section 4(a) shall not take effect until the board publishes notice that the registration process is open and registrations are being accepted. The board shall publish this notice no later than 12 months after the general effective date of this act.

(c) Transitional periods.--All transitional periods set forth in Section 6 shall run from the date the board publishes notice under subsection (b), not from the general effective date of this act.

(d) Board implementation deadline.--If the board fails to publish notice under subsection (b) within 12 moths of the general effective date, the Department of State shall publish the notice on the board's behalf, and the registration requirement shall take effect 30 days after the Department of State's notice.

2026D09005

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

L.R.B. Form No. 4 (Rev. 1/11/17)

HB _____

Legislative Reference Bureau

AN ACT

Establishing the State Board of Opticianry; and providing for registration of opticians.

INTRODUCED _____

By Guzman, Manuel **District NO.** 127

By _____ **District NO.** _____

By _____ **District NO.** _____

By _____ **District NO.** _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

☐ **Prior Session** _____

AN ACT

Establishing the State Board of Opticianry; and providing for registration of opticians.

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

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Optician Certification and Consumer Vision Protection Act.

Section 2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Apprenticeship." An approved supervised training under a certified optician, optometrist or ophthalmologist.

"Board." The State Board of Opticianry established in section 4.

"Certification." A current certification by an agency approved by the State Board of Opticianry.

"Certification-based registration." The process by which certified opticians are registered with the board.

"Optician." A health care professional who provides patient education for prescription eyewear and associated optical devices, performs measurements, analyzes and interprets a prescription, prepares, fits and dispenses eyeglasses, contact lenses and related optical devices based on a prescription from an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Section 3. Certification-based registration requirement.

(a) Requirement to practice.--An individual may not practice as an optician or use titles such as "optician," "dispensing optician," "optical technician" or "ophthalmic dispenser" unless the individual is registered with the board and holds a current certification.

(b) Requirements for registration.--An applicant for certification-based registration shall submit to the board:

(1) Proof of passage of a certification exam approved by the State Board of Opticianry.

(2) Documentation required by the board, including:

(i) Current national opticianry certification.

(ii) If fitting contact lenses, current national contact lens certification.

(iii) Completion of minimum required continuing education by the board.

(iv) Additional requirements of the board.

(3) Proof of passage of a certification exam approved by the board and completion of one of the following:

(i) An associate degree in opticianry from a regionally accredited opticianry program as approved by the State Board of Education.

(ii) Certificate of completion of a minimum of 2,400 hours of supervised apprenticeship.

(iii) Completion of a State-approved area career and technical school education program.

(4) Payment of an applicable registration fee.

Section 4. State Board of Opticianry.

(a) Establishment.--The State Board of Opticianry is established to oversee certification-based registration, discipline and rulemaking.

(b) Membership.--The board shall consist of the following, chosen by the Governor:

(1) Three certified opticians.

(2) One ophthalmologist or optometrist.

(3) One public member.

(c) Quorum.--A majority of members must be physically present or online through a live-stream synchronous video conference or similar virtual presence technology to constitute a quorum. Members who miss three consecutive meetings without an approved excuse shall forfeit their membership.

(d) Duties.--The board shall:

(1) Enforce this act.

(2) Review complaints and impose disciplinary actions under this act and regulations promulgated under this act.

(3) Approve continuing education standards.

(4) Coordinate with agencies approved by the board for certification verification.

Section 5. Certification maintenance and registry.

(a) Maintaining certification.--An optician must maintain active certification from an organization approved by the board to practice as an optician.

(b) Renewal.--Certification shall be renewed every three years with a minimum of nine credits in spectacle education and 12 credits in contact lens education, if applicable, tri-annually received through in-person education. The board may require additional continuing education credits annually.

(c) Acceptance.--The board shall annually accept an upload of certified opticians from an organization approved by the board.

(d) Public registry.--The board shall maintain a public registry of certified and registered opticians.

Section 6. Applicability.

This act applies as follows:

(1) This act shall not apply to:

(i) Ophthalmologists or optometrists.

(ii) Technicians working under the supervision of a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist.

(iii) Students in accredited opticianry programs under supervision.

(2) An optician with 10 or more years of documented professional experience prior to the effective date of this paragraph shall be exempt from certification requirements for a period of 24 months. Opticians with a current license from another state shall have three months to reinstate their certification with the agency approved by the board.

Section 7. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.