

HB 664 -- Licensure of Optometrists

Sponsor: Behnen

This bill changes the laws regarding the licensing and practice of optometry. The bill:

- (1) Clarifies the definition of "optometry" to include vision therapy, low vision care, and pharmaceutical use;
- (2) Prohibits any person to offer to practice optometry without a license;
- (3) Specifies who is qualified to receive a license;
- (4) Requires optometrists practicing away from their principal place of business to obtain a duplicate license and display it in clear public view;
- (5) Allows optometrists licensed in other states which have been practicing for the last three years with a pharmaceutical certification to be eligible to make application for licensure;
- (6) Removes the requirement that the State Board of Optometry give 30 days' notice of the time and place of board meetings;
- (7) Requires the board to accept renewal applications which include approved continuing education programs which are not available in Missouri; and
- (8) Repeals and reenacts provisions pertaining to the administering of pharmaceuticals, course of instruction necessary to administer pharmaceuticals, standards of care, and referrals to physicians.