

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 972

Approved by the Governor April 16, 2008

Introduced by Gay, 14.

FOR AN ACT relating to optometry; to amend sections 38-2609 and 38-2611, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007; to change provisions relating to reciprocal licensure and continuing competency requirements; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 38-2609, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007, is amended to read:

38-2609 In addition to the standards set by the board pursuant to section 38-126, an applicant for licensure based on a license in another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia must have been actively engaged in the practice of optometry for at least ~~one~~ two of the three years immediately preceding the application for licensure in Nebraska and must provide satisfactory evidence of being credentialed in such other jurisdiction at a level with requirements that are at least as stringent as or more stringent than the requirements for the comparable credential being applied for in this state.

Sec. 2. Section 38-2611, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007, is amended to read:

38-2611 The department, with the recommendation of the board, may waive continuing competency requirements, in part or in total, for any two-year licensing period when a credential holder submits documentation that circumstances beyond his or her control prevented completion of such requirements as provided in section 38-146. In addition to circumstances determined by the department to be beyond the credential holder's control pursuant to such section, such circumstances shall include situations in which:

(1) The credential holder has submitted proof that he or she was suffering from a serious or disabling illness or physical disability which prevented completion of the required continuing competency activities during the twenty-four months preceding the renewal date; or and

(2) The credential holder was initially licensed within the twenty-six months immediately preceding the renewal date.

Sec. 3. This act becomes operative on December 1, 2008.

Sec. 4. Original sections 38-2609 and 38-2611, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007, are repealed.