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## OHIO OPTICAL DISPENSERS BOARD

- Requires spectacle dispensing opticians to complete two hours of study in prepackaged soft contact lens dispensing before being authorized to dispense prepackaged soft contact lenses.
- Modifies the continuing education requirement regarding contact lens dispensing that applies to spectacle dispensing opticians.
- Exempts from continuing education requirements certain professionals who are applying for the initial renewal of a license issued by the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board.
- Requires the Board to approve continuing education programs that are conducted in person or through electronic or other self-study means.
- Specifies that "optical dispensing" does not include placing an order for the delivery of an optical aid.

### **Licensed spectacle dispensing opticians and contact lens dispensing**

(R.C. 4725.411)

The bill requires spectacle dispensing opticians to complete two hours of study in prepackaged soft contact lens dispensing approved by the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board. Spectacle dispensing opticians who are already licensed on the provision's effective date must complete the two hours of study not later than December 31, 2015, and those who receive a license after the effective date must complete the requirement not later than December 31 of the year the license is received. The bill provides that a spectacle dispensing optician is not authorized to dispense prepackaged soft contact lenses until the two hours of study is completed. Under continuing law, spectacle dispensing opticians are not authorized to dispense prepackaged soft contact lenses until January 1, 2016.

### **Continuing education**

(R.C. 4725.51; Section 747.20)

The bill modifies the continuing education requirement regarding contact lens dispensing that applies to spectacle dispensing opticians. It repeals a provision specifying that the continuing education is to be limited to education in the dispensing



of prepackaged soft contact lenses and the action of matching the packaging description to a written prescription. Instead, the bill specifies that the continuing education is to cover contact lens dispensing in general. A spectacle dispensing optician who is licensed on the provision's effective date can satisfy this continuing education requirement by completing the two hours of study in prepackaged soft contact lens dispensing that must be completed by December 31, 2015 (as described above).

The bill exempts from continuing education requirements spectacle dispensing opticians, contact lens dispensing opticians, spectacle-contact lens dispensing opticians, and ocularists who are applying for an initial license renewal. This exemption does not apply to the two hours of study in prepackaged soft contact lens dispensing that a spectacle dispensing optician must complete by December 31 of the year the license is received (see "**Licensed spectacle dispensing opticians and contact lens dispensing**"). The bill also requires the Board to permit continuing education programs to be conducted in person or through electronic or other self-study means.

### **Optical dispensing**

(R.C. 4725.40)

The bill specifies that "optical dispensing" does not include placing an order for the delivery of any optical aid, thereby excluding that action from any licensing requirements.

