

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS RULES CHAPTER 420-9, RULE 420-9.01: CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LICENSE RENEWALS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to the Board Rules, Chapter 420-9, Rule 420-9.01 *Continuing Education for License Renewals*. The proposed rule amendment increases the number of hours of continuing education for which an individual may obtain and receive credit for via the internet.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board's web page at <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/opticians>. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:20 a.m. on March 18, 2009 at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendments. At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcomed. To ensure their consideration, written comments must be received on or before March 11, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to Randall D. Vaughn, Director, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia Board of Dispensing Opticians, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. FAX: 866-888-7127.

The proposed rule amendment will be considered for adoption by the Board at its meeting scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. on March 18, 2009 at the Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State's Office, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The proposed rule amendment are proposed for adoption pursuant to authority contained in The Georgia Board of Dispensing Optician Act O.C.G.A. §§ 43-29-3, 43-29-6, 43-29-11.

At its meeting on November 19, 2008, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these rules do not impose regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-29-3, 43-29-6, 43-29-11.

At its meeting on November 19, 2008, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-29-3, 43-29-6, 43-29-11 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. §§50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of Dispensing Opticians.

For further information, contact the Board office at 478-207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 7th day of January, 2009.

Randall D. Vaughn
Professional Licensing Boards
Division Director

Posted: January 7, 2009

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS
RULE 420-9-.01 CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LICENSE RENEWALS**

Purpose: To update the number of continuing education hours that may be obtained via the internet

Main Features: To update the existing rule to state that of the ten (10) required hours, no more than five (5) hours may be obtained via the internet.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS
RULE 420-9-.01 CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR LICENSE RENEWALS**

[**Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.**]

420-9-.01 Continuing Education for License Renewals. Amended.

(1) Continuing Education courses totaling at least ten (10) hours shall be required for the biennial renewal of licenses. Of the ten (10) hours, a minimum of two (2) hours shall be in the area of contact lenses. Of the ten (10) hours, no more than ~~two (2)~~ five (5) hours may be obtained via the internet.

(2) With his/her application for license renewal, each licensed dispensing optician must submit a certificate or certificates of attendance for course hours completed as proof that his/her education requirements have been satisfied.

Authority O.C.G.A. §§ 43-29-3, 43-29-6, 43-29-11