

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED  
AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DISPENSING  
OPTICIANS RULES CHAPTER 420-8; RULE 420-8-.01, PRACTICAL  
TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO ALL INTERESTED 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 Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians Rules, Chapter 420; Rule 420-8-.01 Practical Training and Experience (herein after "proposed rule amendment").

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 5:30 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. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

A public hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on July 2, 2008 at the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

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 official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Written comments are welcome. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:30 P.M.) on June 25, 2008. Written comments should be addressed to Randall Vaughn, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Telephone (478) 207-2440 or fax (478) 207-1660.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at a meeting scheduled to begin at 9:05 a.m. on July 2, 2008 at the Secretary of State's Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians has the authority to adopt a proposed rule amendment to Rule 420-8-.01 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§43-29-3, 43-29-6, and 43-29-7.

At its Conference Call Board meeting on May 13, 2008, the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§43-29-3, 43-29-6, and 43-29-7.

Additionally, at the meeting, 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, and 43-29-7 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(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 in the field of dispensing opticians.

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

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008.

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Randall D. Vaughn  
Division Director

Posted: May 29, 2008

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS  
CHAPTER 420-8; RULE 420-8-.01 PRACTICAL TRAINING AND  
EXPERIENCE**

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed rule is to provide the standards for apprenticeship period requirements in order to be considered for licensure.

**Main Features:** The main feature of the proposed rule is to clarify the tenets of an approved apprenticeship course to include experience and a written plan of instruction.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS  
CHAPTER 420-8; RULE 420-8-.01 PRACTICAL TRAINING AND  
EXPERIENCE**

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

Rule 420-8-.01 Practical Training and Experience is hereby revised as follows:

**420-8-.01 Practical Training and Experience.**

In order to be admitted to the examination pursuant to that provision of O.C.G.A. §43-29 7(b)(4) which provides "practical training and experience of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board for not less than two years under the supervision of a dispensing optician, a licensed physician, or a licensed optometrist: Provided, however, that any time spent in a recognized school shall be considered as a part of the apprenticeship period provided herein", the applicant must submit documentation to the Board with his/her application to establish the satisfaction of such provisions, the satisfaction of which will be determined under the following standards:

(a) ~~"For not less than two (2) years"~~ means two (2) calendar years and shall include, at a minimum 3,000 hours experience. Effective July 1, 2008, any person wishing to qualify under the apprenticeship statute shall make application to register with the Board prior to beginning the apprenticeship along with the application fee as determined by the Board. The registration shall identify the supervising licensed physician, licensed optometrist, or licensed dispensing optician and the mailing address and telephone number of the primary location where the apprenticeship training shall occur; provided, however, that in addition to the primary location, such training may be furnished at other locations under proper supervision.

(b) ~~"Under the supervision of a dispensing optician, licensed physician or a licensed optometrist"~~ means that the appropriate licensed practitioner(s) must be on the premises where the practical training and experience is being acquired for every hour of apprenticeship sought to be considered in fulfillment of this requirement. "Practical training and experience of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board for not less than two years" means two (2) calendar years and shall include, at a minimum, 3,000 hours experience engaged in apprenticeship functions and studies which shall include (but not be limited to) instruction in ophthalmic optics, optical

laboratory materials and techniques, eye anatomy and physiology, related laws and regulations, ophthalmic dispensing theory and application, and basic contact lens theory.

(c) Instruction may also be evidenced by certificates from recognized schools of opticianry with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education or formal home study programs through the Career Progression Program with the National Academy of Opticianry or other programs approved in advance by the Board.

(d) “Under the supervision of a licensed dispensing optician, licensed physician or a licensed optometrist” means that the appropriate licensed practitioner(s) must be on the premises where the practical training and experience is being acquired for every hour of apprenticeship sought to be considered in fulfillment of this requirement.

(e)Effective July 1, 2008, the board shall provide a list of textbooks and instructional materials to guide the apprentice and supervisors in providing the appropriate apprenticeship instruction. Upon completion by the applicant, such training and experience shall be certified by the supervising licensed dispensing optician, licensed physician or licensed optometrist to the board.

(f)Applicants who have received practical training and experience in the trade or occupation of dispensing optician prior to July 1, 2008, shall receive credit toward the practical training and experience requirements if they register with the board in accordance with the provisions of this rule no later than August 31, 2008 and such training and experience is deemed satisfactory by the board.

(g)The date that the application is received by the Georgia State Board of Dispensing Opticians will designate the actual commence date of the apprenticeship pending approval of the application.

Authority O.C.G.A. §§43-29-3, 43-29-6, and 43-29-7.