

[ Act No. 2708, March 11, 1917 ]

**AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF THE OPTICAL  
PROFESSION, TO CREATE THE BOARD OF OPTICAL EXAMINERS,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in  
Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:*

*SECTION 1. Board of Examiners; appointment of members and substitution thereof.*

—The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint a Board of Optical Examiners consisting of a duly qualified physician and two reputable opticians practising the optical profession in the Philippine Islands at the time of their appointment and graduates of any reputable university, academy, college, school or institution legally constituted and recognized as such by the Government or the state in which established. They shall hold office for three years after their appointment, and until their successors are duly appointed and qualified: *Provided, however,* That of the first appointments made by the Secretary of the Interior, one shall expire on the thirty-first of December, nineteen hundred and seventeen; another on the thirty-first of December, nineteen hundred and eighteen; and the third on the thirty-first of December, nineteen hundred and nineteen, as specified in their respective certificates of appointment. Each person appointed to the Board shall qualify by taking and subscribing to the following oath of office:

"I, . . . . . , having been appointed a member of the Board of Optical Examiners for the Philippine Islands, do hereby solemnly swear and affirm that I graduated on .....from ..... in the city of .....; that I am practising my profession; that I will well and truly perform the duties of said office; that I will give an exact and full account of all moneys coming into my hands as such officer; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Government of the United States and to the Government of the Philippine Islands; and that I take this oath without any mental reservation whatsoever. So help me God." This oath shall be filed and recorded in the office of the Secretary of the Interior.

The Secretary of the Interior shall fill any vacancy that may occur in the Board of Examiners, designating an optician or qualified physician, according to the nature of the vacancy, within one month after the occurrence thereof, and the person so appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office only for the unexpired term of the member whose place he is appointed to fill. The Secretary of the Interior may remove any member of said Board for neglect of duty, or incompetency, or for unprofessional or dishonorable conduct, or for any other just cause.

*SEC. 2. Organization of the Board of Examiners; duties and compensation.*—The Board of Examiners shall be under the Secretary of the Interior. It shall organize immediately after the appointment of its members by electing from its members a president and a secretary-treasurer thereof; it shall hold an annual election on each second Tuesday of January; and it shall keep a seal with which to attest its official acts. The secretary-treasurer shall receive as annual compensation an amount not to exceed three hundred pesos per annum, and the other members of the Board shall receive as compensation the sum of five pesos for each candidate examined for registration as an optician: *Provided, however,* That said compensations and all

other expenses of the Board shall be paid out of the receipts thereof, and no expenditure incurred by the Board nor the compensation of its members shall under any circumstances be paid out of any funds in the Insular Treasury other than those deposited by the Board of Optical Examiners. The compensation of the secretary-treasurer shall be paid one-half on the thirtieth of June and the other half on the thirty-first of December of each year.

All receipts of the Board from whatever source shall be deposited in the Insular Treasury and all expenditures of the Board shall be paid by the Insular Treasurer, out of the funds derived from said receipts, upon presentation of the proper vouchers signed by the officers of the Board of Optical Examiners. The secretary-treasurer shall execute a bond for five hundred pesos, with good and sufficient sureties, which shall be approved by the Insular Treasurer, conditioned upon the payment of all moneys which he may receive as secretary-treasurer and upon the faithful performance of the duties of his office. He shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board, and a register of all persons to whom certificates of registration have been granted, setting forth the name, age, place where established, post-office address, the name of the institution from which he graduated and in which he has studied, the date of such graduation or upon which he finished his studies, together with the time spent by him in the study of optics, and the names and locations of all other institutions which have granted to him degrees and the certificates concerning his practice.

SEC. 3. *Meetings, examinations.*—The Board of Optical Examiners shall meet in the city of Manila for the purpose of examining candidates desiring to practice the optical profession in the Philippine Islands on the first Tuesday of June and December of each year, upon at least thirty days notice published in the most widely read newspapers of the locality.

The first examinations to be held under this Act shall take place upon the organization of said Board.

SEC. 4. *Certificates.*—The Board of Examiners shall issue certificates of registration as opticians to any person twenty-one years of age and over, of good habits and morals, who has an optician's diploma issued by a duly constituted, accredited, and reputable university, academy, college, school or institution, recognized as such by the Government or the State in which established, and who passes a satisfactory examination before the Board: Provided, That any person who is practising the optical profession in the Philippine Islands at the time of the approval of this Act, may receive a certificate of registration as optician without examination if within the period of ninety days he exhibits to the Board a certificate as optician issued by a duly constituted, accredited, and reputable university, academy, college, school or institution, recognized as such by the Government or the state in which established, upon payment of the proper fees: *Provided, further,* That any person who, at the time of the approval of this Act, has been practising the optical profession for a period of not less than one year, with an establishment lawfully opened, but lacks the proper diploma, may, within one year from and after the approval of this Act, secure a certificate as optician upon passing a practical examination by means of the trial case.

SEC. 5. *Rides and reports of the Board of Examiners: requirements as to optical colleges or schools.*—The Board of Optical Examiners shall, on the thirty-first of