

Contact Lens Practitioners Bill

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Bill No: 21/1995

Read the first time: 25th May 1995

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Contact Lens Practitioners Bill

Bill No. 21/1995

Read the first time on 25th May 1995.

An Act to provide for the registration of contact lens practitioners and for purposes connected therewith.

Be it enacted by the President, with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Contact Lens Practitioners Act 1995 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“annual licence” means an annual licence granted under section 9;

“appointed day” means the date of commencement of this Act;

“Board” means the Contact Lens Practitioners Board established under section 3;

“contact lens practitioner” means a person engaged in the testing of sight and the prescription or the fitting of contact lenses;

“institution” means an institution of higher learning and includes a university, college or polytechnic;

“licence” means an annual licence or a provisional licence granted under this Act;

“provisional licence” means a provisional licence granted under section 10;

“register” means the register of contact lens practitioners maintained under this Act;

“registered contact lens practitioner” means a contact lens practitioner whose name is registered in the register;

“registered medical practitioner” shall have the same meaning as in the Medical Registration Act [Cap. 174];

“Registrar” means the Registrar of the Board appointed under section 5(1);

“testing of sight” means the examination of the eyes and the measurement of their functions and powers with the object of —

(a) determining whether there is any abnormality or defect of sight and, if so, the nature and degree of such abnormality; and

(b) correcting, remedying or relieving any abnormality or defect of sight.

Establishment of Contact Lens Practitioners Board

3.—(1) There shall be established a body to be called the Contact Lens Practitioners Board which shall consist of —

- (a) a medical officer in the public service who shall be the chairman;
- (b) 2 members who are registered contact lens practitioners;
- (c) 2 members who are registered medical practitioners with specialist qualifications in ophthalmology; and
- (d) 2 members of the academic staff of any institution in Singapore which conducts a course of instruction in optometry or contact lens practice.

(2) The Schedule shall apply to the Board, its members and proceedings.

Functions of Board

4. It shall be the functions of the Board to —

- (a) maintain a register of contact lens practitioners;
- (b) determine the requirements for the training, education and examination of persons for the purposes of registration under this Act;
- (c) determine the syllabuses and the contents of courses of instruction and the examinations leading to the qualifications required for registration under this Act;
- (d) provide continuing education for contact lens practitioners; and
- (e) regulate, determine and improve the standards of practice, professional conduct and discipline of contact lens practitioners.

Appointment and duties of Registrar

5.—(1) The Minister shall appoint a Registrar of the Board.

(2) The Registrar shall be under the general direction of the Board and shall —

- (a) keep the register of contact lens practitioners in accordance with this Act;
- (b) sign all certificates of registration and licences issued by the Board; and
- (c) record all entries of registration, cancellations and reinstatements in the register.

(3) The Registrar shall attend all meetings of the Board and record the proceedings thereof, and shall conduct the correspondence and deal with such matters as may be

assigned to him by the Board.

(4) The Registrar shall —

- (a) as soon as may be convenient after the appointed day, prepare and publish in the *Gazette* a list containing the names, qualifications and addresses of all contact lens practitioners whose names appear in the register and thereafter shall publish a revised list at least once in 3 years; and
- (b) from time to time publish in the *Gazette* the names, qualifications and addresses of all contact lens practitioners added to or removed from the register.

(5) In any proceedings, a list published under subsection (4) shall be prima facie evidence that any person whose name appears therein is registered as a contact lens practitioner.

(6) The Minister may appoint such person as he considers fit to act as Registrar during the absence from Singapore or incapacity from illness or otherwise of the Registrar.

Register

6.—(1) The register of contact lens practitioners shall be kept in such form as the Board may determine and shall contain —

- (a) the names of all persons registered under this Act;
- (b) the qualifications by virtue of which they are so registered; and
- (c) such other particulars as may from time to time be determined by the Board.

(2) Any person may, on payment of the prescribed fee, inspect the register at any time during the office hours of the Board.

(3) A copy of any entry in the register purporting to be certified by the Registrar as a true copy thereof shall in all proceedings be prima facie evidence of all matters specified therein.

Qualifications for registration

7.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person shall be entitled to be registered as a contact lens practitioner under this Act if he —

- (a) holds a degree, diploma or qualification which the Board may, by order published in the *Gazette*, and subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Board may specify in the order, declare to be a degree, diploma or