

First Session Third Parliament Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ACT No. 27 of 1987

**AN ACT to amend the Opticians (Registration) Act,
Chap.29.561**

(Assented to 31st December, 1987)

Enacted by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as follows:-

1. This Act may be cited as the Opticians (Registration) Act, 1987

2. Section 2 of the Opticians (Registration) Act (hereinafter in this Act called "the Act") is amended

(a) by inserting therein the following definition:

"drug" has the meaning assigned to it in the Food and Drugs Act;"

(b) by deleting from the definition of "sight testing" the word "drugs".

3. Section 3 of the Act is amended by repealing subsections (1) and (2) and replacing them as follows:

(1) There shall be established a Council to be known as the Opticians Registration Council to be appointed by the Minister and consisting of –

(a) two dispensing opticians nominated by the Dispensing Opticians Association;

(b) two medical practitioners, one an ophthalmologist, nominated by the Medical Board, and the other, the Chief Medical Officer or his alternate;

(c) three optometrists nominated by the Trinidad and Tobago Optometrist Association.

(2) The Chairman shall be the Chief Medical Officer or his alternate who shall have an original and a casting vote.

4. Section 5 of the Act is amended by repealing and replacing subsection (2) as follows:

(2) The Register shall be in three parts, showing separately- .

(a) the names of individuals registered as optometrists;

(b) the names of individuals registered as dispensing opticians; and

(c) the names of firms or companies registered to carry on the practice of optometry or dispensing opticians.

5. Section of the Act is amended by adding immediately after subsection (2) the following new subsections:

“(3) Every firm or company desirous of carrying on the business of providing ophthalmic or dispensing service is required to apply to be registered under this Act and any such firm or company engaging in such business without being so registered is guilty of an offence.

(4) Where the applicant for registration under this Act is a firm or company, registration shall be conditional upon the applicant having on its staff at least one individual who is himself registered under this Act as an optometrist or a dispensing optician.”

6. Section 8 of the Act is amended by adding immediately after subsection (2) the following new subsections:

“(3) Notwithstanding any rule of law to the contrary optometrists are entitled to obtain and administer for external use only, in sight-testing, the diagnostic drugs listed in the Schedule,

(4) A dispensing optician entitled to fit contact lenses is permitted to use the drug fluorescein in sterile impregnated paper strip form.

(5) No person registered under this Act shall be entitled to use diagnostic drugs unless he is –

(a) an optometrist who qualified not earlier than 1960; or

(b) an optometrist who qualified before 1960 but satisfies the Council that he has successfully completed a course recognised by the Council in the use of drugs.

(6) The Minister, acting on the advice of the Council, may by Order, vary the Schedule by adding thereto or deleting therefrom.”

7. The Act is amended by immediately adding after section 8 the following new section:

8A. No person registered under this Act shall be entitled to fit contact lenses unless he is –

(a) lenses; or an optometrist who qualified not earlier than 1960

(b) an optometrist who qualified before 1960 but who satisfies the Council that he is proficient in the fitting of contact lenses.

(c) a dispensing optician who satisfies the Council he is proficient in the fitting of contact lenses

8. Section 9 of the Act is repealed and replaced as follows:

9. (1) Subject to section 7 any individual, firm or company desiring to be registered under this Act shall make application to the secretary and submit such evidence of eligibility for registration as shall be satisfactory to the Council.

(2) The secretary shall as soon as possible after a decision has been reached by the Council in respect of any application for registration, inform the applicant of such decision.

9. Section 10 of the Act is repealed and replaced as follows:

10. The secretary shall submit each registration application to the Council and the Council if satisfied that the applicant is eligible and fit and proper to be registered under this Act shall direct the secretary to register such applicant accordingly on payment of the registration fee.

10. Section 11 of the Act is repealed and replaced as follows:

11. The fees payable under this Act shall be those prescribed in the regulations

11. Section 12 of the Act is repealed and replaced as follows:

12.(1) The secretary shall issue to every individual, firm or company registered under this Act a licence, signed by the Chairman of the Council and by the secretary, to practise as an optometrist or a dispensing optician, as the case may be, and such licence shall expire on the 31st day of December next after the issue thereof, unless it is cancelled or suspended earlier by order of the Council.

(2) Every licensee under this section shall pay to the secretary an annual licence fee payable in the month of January in each year commencing with the year immediately following his initial registration.

(3) If any licensee fails to pay the annual licence fee for three months after it becomes due, the registration shall be deemed to be suspended; but it shall be lawful for the Council to restore the effectiveness of the registration upon payment of the licence fee and such further sum by way of fine as to the Council may seem proper."

12. The Act is amended by adding immediately after Schedule added section 26 the following new Schedule:

"SCHEDULE

Topical Anaesthetics for facilitating

(a) *the measurement of intraocular pressure:*

(b) *ocular prosthesis*

(i) Amethocaine not over 0.5 per cent;

(ii) Benoxinate (oxybuprocaine hydrochloride) not over 0.4 percent

(iii) Proparacaine hydrochloride not over 0.5 per cent.

Diagnostic Staining Dyes

(a) Rose Bengal I per cent solution;

(b) Fluorescein in sterile impregnated paper-strip form."