

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.B. No. 2933

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the licensing and regulation of military optometrists and therapeutic optometrists who provide voluntary charity care.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 351, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 351.266 to read as follows:

Sec. 351.266. MILITARY LIMITED VOLUNTEER LICENSE. (a) The board shall adopt rules relating to the issuance of a military limited volunteer license under this section.

(b) The board may issue a military limited volunteer license to practice optometry or therapeutic optometry to an applicant who:

(1) is licensed and in good standing, or was licensed and retired in good standing, as an optometrist or therapeutic optometrist in another state;

(2) is or was authorized as an optometrist or therapeutic optometrist to treat personnel enlisted in a branch of the United States armed forces or veterans; and

(3) meets any other requirement prescribed by board rule.

(c) The board may not issue a license under this section to an applicant who:

(1) holds an optometry or therapeutic optometry license that:

(A) is currently under active investigation; or

1                   (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or  
2 action or to denial by another jurisdiction;

3                   (2) holds a license to prescribe, dispense,  
4 administer, supply, or sell a controlled substance that:

5                   (A) is currently under active investigation; or

6                   (B) is or was subject to a disciplinary order or  
7 action or to denial by another jurisdiction; or

8                   (3) has been convicted of, is on deferred adjudication  
9 community supervision or deferred disposition for, or is under  
10 active investigation for the commission of:

11                   (A) a felony; or

12                   (B) a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

13                   (d) An optometrist or therapeutic optometrist may practice  
14 optometry or therapeutic optometry under a license issued under  
15 this section only at a clinic that primarily treats indigent  
16 patients. The optometrist or therapeutic optometrist may not  
17 directly or indirectly receive compensation or anything of monetary  
18 value for optometric services rendered at the clinic.

19                   (e) A military limited volunteer license holder is subject  
20 to board rules, including rules regarding disciplinary action,  
21 license registration and renewal, and continuing medical  
22 education.

23                   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.