

*****DRAFT - NOT FOR FILING*****

4725-3-11 Consideration of Military Experience, Education, Training and Term of Service.

(A) Eligibility for licensure. In accordance with section 5903. of the Revised Code, the board has determined that there are no military programs of training, military specialties and lengths of service that are substantially equivalent to or which exceed the educational and supervised training requirements for licensure as an optometrist. Applicants must still meet the requirements of ORC 4725.12 prior to issuance of an optometric license.

(B) Definitions related to military service and veteran status.

(1) "Military," in accordance with division (A) of section 5903.03 of the Revised Code, means the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the Ohio national guard or the national guard of any other state.

(2) "Member" means any person who is serving in the military.

(3) "Veteran" means any person who has completed service in the military, and who has been discharged under honorable conditions or who has been transferred to the reserve with evidence of satisfactory service.

(4) "Armed forces" means the armed forces of the United States, including the army, navy, air force, marine corps, coast guard, or any reserve components of those forces; the national guard of any state; the commissioned corps of the United States public health service; the merchant marine service during wartime; such other service as may be designated by congress; or the Ohio organized militia when engaged in full-time national guard duty for a period of more than thirty days.

(C) License issuance, renewal and continuing education.

(1) For military members on active duty, the board shall waive the requirements of 4725-9-01 OAC for continuing education.

(2) In accordance with section 5903.10 of the Revised Code, a licensee whose license expired due to the licensee's service in the armed forces of the United States or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the Ohio national guard or the national guard of any other state, shall be eligible for renewal of the expired license in accordance with section 4725.12 of the Revised Code, if the following conditions are met:

(a) The licensee presents the board with satisfactory evidence that, not more than six months prior to the date the evidence is submitted to the board, the licensee was honorably discharged or separated under honorable conditions.

(D) License fee.

(1) In accordance with 4725-3-02 the board shall waive the initial license fee for military service members.

(2) For Active Duty Military licensees, the Board shall waive the yearly renewal license fee.

(E) Prioritizing veterans and military members licensure applications.

(1) Completed applications in accordance with 4725.12 ORC will be processed within 1-2 business days, in office, and formally approved at the next available Board meeting.

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