

**Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION
Division 2210—State Board of Optometry
Chapter 2—General Rules**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

20 CSR 2210-2.030 License Renewal. The board is amending section (11) by adding a new subsection (E) and renumbering as needed.

PURPOSE: This amendment clarifies the number of continuing education hours which may be obtained by a method where the licensee is not physically present.

(11) The following guidelines govern the attendance of educational optometric programs for license renewal:

(E) Of the thirty-two (32) hours of board-approved continuing education required for license renewal, no more than sixteen (16) hours may be obtained through distance learning methods such as correspondence courses, online only courses, magazine articles or other methods where the licensee is not physically present with the course speaker or presenter;

[(E)] **(F)** Individuals who obtain a license by endorsement during the second year of a two (2)-year reporting period will only be required to obtain sixteen (16) hours of continuing education in order to renew the license for the initial license renewal. Individuals who obtain a license by endorsement during the first year of a two (2)-year reporting period will be required to obtain thirty-two (32) hours of board-approved continuing education in order to renew the license for the initial license renewal;

[(F)] **(G)** Individuals who obtain a license by examination shall be considered to have satisfied the continuing education requirement for the first renewal after their initial license date;

[(G)] **(H)** Licensees who present Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE)-approved continuing education will be allowed one (1) hour of continuing education credit for each hour of the continuing education presented. Each COPE numbered course may be used one (1) time for continuing education credit during the reporting period;

[(H)] **(I)** Licensees who are enrolled in a postgraduate residency program accredited by the Council on Optometric Education will receive sixteen (16) hours of continuing education credit to satisfy one (1) year of the two (2)-year reporting period; and

[(I)] **(J)** The board will consider requests for exemption from the educational requirements only if the request for exemption is filed with the board's executive director and actually approved by the board before the end of the reporting period. The request for exemption must be by sworn affidavit and must clearly set out the reasons asserted for noncompliance, including at least a listing of all other years for which the board has exempted the licensee and a listing of the dates upon which the licensee's reasons for exemption required his/her absence from active practice. In its discretion, the board may refuse to exempt a licensee from the required attendance, notwithstanding the existence

of a valid reason, if the board determines that the licensee has or had other reasonable opportunities to meet the requirements of this rule.

AUTHORITY: sections 336.080 and 336.160.1, RSMo Supp. 2013. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 210-2.030. Original rule filed Dec. 19, 1975, effective Dec. 29, 1975. Amended: Filed Aug. 30, 1979, effective Feb. 11, 1980. Amended: Filed Sept. 12, 1980, effective Dec. 13, 1980. For intervening history, please consult the **Code of State Regulations**. Amended: Filed July 18, 2016.*

PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment will not cost state agencies or political more than five hundred dollars (\$ 500) in the aggregate.

PRIVATE COST: This proposed amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the aggregate.

NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with the Missouri Board of Optometry, PO Box 1335, 3605 Missouri Boulevard, Jefferson City, MO 65102, by facsimile at (573) 751-8216, or via email at optometry@pr.mo.gov. To be considered, comments must be received within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the Missouri Register. No public hearing is scheduled.