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ISSUE DATE: **SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**  
**RULE ADOPTIONS**  
**LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF OPHTHALMIC DISPENSERS AND**  
**OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIANS**

**Adopted New Rule: N.J.A.C. 13:33-2.2A**

**Credit Towards Licensure for Education, Training, and Experience Received While Serving as a Member of the Armed Forces**

Proposed: October 20, 2014, at 46 N.J.R. 2080(a).

Adopted: March 11, 2015, by the New Jersey Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians, Michael Higgins, President.

Filed: August 21, 2015, as R.2015 d.154, **without change**.

Authority: N.J.S.A. 52:17B-41.13 and P.L. 2013, c. 49.

Effective Date: September 21, 2015.

Expiration Date: February 1, 2018.

**Summary** of Public Comment and Agency Response:

The official comment period ended December 19, 2014. In order to ensure compliance with P.L. 2013, c. 259, the comment period was extended through January 4, 2015. **The Board received no comments.**

**Federal Standards Statement**

A Federal standards analysis is not required because there are no Federal laws or standards applicable to the adopted amendments.

**Full text** of the adopted new rule follows:

SUBCHAPTER 2. LICENSURE

13:33-2.2A Credit towards licensure for education, training, and experience received while serving as a member of the Armed Forces

(a) An applicant who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States (Armed Forces) and who does not meet all of the training, education, and experience requirements for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:33-2.1 or 2.2 may apply to the Board for recognition of the applicant's training, education, or experience received while serving as a member of the

Armed Forces, which the Board shall consider, together with any training, education, and experience obtained outside of the Armed Forces, for determining substantial equivalence to the training, education, and experience required for licensure.

(b) The Board shall issue a license to the applicant if the applicant presents evidence to the Board that:

1. The applicant has been honorably discharged from active military service;

2. The relevant training, education, and experience the applicant received in the military, together with any training, education, and experience obtained outside of the Armed Forces, is substantially equivalent in scope and character to the training, education, and experience required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:33-2.1 or 2.2.

i. An applicant seeking credit for military training and experience shall submit to the Board the applicant's Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) Document, DD Form 2586.

ii. An applicant seeking credit for education courses and/or training completed while in the military shall submit to the Board a Joint Services Transcript of his or her education/training for a determination that the education courses and/or training completed are substantially equivalent in level, scope, and intent to the program required for licensure under N.J.A.C. 13:33-2.1 and 2.2. For the purpose of determining substantial equivalence of the applicant's military education and/or training, the Board shall consider only those education courses and/or training relevant to the practice of opticianry that have been evaluated by the American Council on Education for substantial equivalence to civilian opticianry education; and

3. The applicant complies with all other requirements for licensure, including successful completion of licensing examination.

(c) It is the applicant's responsibility to provide timely and complete evidence of the training, education, and experience gained in the military for review and consideration.

(d) If the applicant's military training, education, and experience, or a portion thereof, is not deemed to be substantially equivalent to that required for licensure, the Board shall credit whatever portion of the military training, education, and experience that is substantially equivalent towards meeting the requirements under N.J.A.C. 13:33-2.1 or 2.2 for the issuance of the license.

(e) Satisfactory evidence of such training, education, and experience shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis.