



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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INTERIM COMMISSIONER

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TO: Opticians

FROM: Professional Licensing and Certification Unit, Department of State Health Services

DATE: August 7, 2015

RE: Elimination of Optician Registration Requirements

Effective September 1, 2015, Opticians, as defined in the Texas Occupations Code (TOC) Chapter 352, will no longer be required to hold registrations issued by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in order to conduct business in the state. These recent changes were the result of amendments enacted by Senate Bill (SB) 202, passed during the 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session (2015). SB 202 repealed TOC, Chapter 352.

- The certificate you are required to hold to operate as an Optician will expire on August 31, 2015.
- After that date, DSHS will no longer issue new licenses/registrations, and **no DSHS license/registration will be required** for this profession.
- Licenses due to expire have been automatically extended to a new expiration date of August 31, 2015.
- Please note that there may be state and federal laws with which you must still comply.

Please do not post your license for public viewing on and after September 1, 2015, as it will no longer be valid. You should also refrain from advertising or making references in connection with your business that would lead the public to believe that you still hold a license issued by DSHS as an Optician.

You may still verify former license holders on the DSHS website at: <https://vo.ras.dshs.state.tx.us> . However, custom verifications by mail will no longer be available.

For more information, we encourage you to refer to our web page at www.dshs.state.tx.us/optician/ . If you have questions, please e-mail us at optician@dshs.state.tx.us.