

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance
(Chapter 359)

OPTOMETRISTS (REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2000

INTRODUCTION

On 17 May 2000, with the approval of the Secretary for Health and Welfare, the Supplementary Medical Professions Council made the Optometrists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) (Amendment) Regulation 2000 (“the Regulation”), **at Annex**, under section 29(1B) of the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359) (“the Principal Ordinance”).

BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

General Background

2. The Principal Ordinance and the Optometrists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation made under it provide for a registration and discipline system for regulating the practice of optometry.

3. The register of optometrists is divided into different parts. Optometrists whose names appear in different parts of the register are subject to different restrictions in practice. Part I optometrists are allowed to practise optometry without restriction. Part II optometrists are not allowed to use any diagnostic agent other than staining agents in the course of their practice.

Opportunity for Part II optometrists to be registered as Part I optometrists

4. The Regulation provides that a Part II optometrist holding a Certificate of Attainment in Ocular Pharmacology issued by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University shall be qualified to be registered as a Part I optometrist if he has practised as a Part II optometrist for one year or more, or has other experience recognized by the Optometrists Board for that purpose.

THE REGULATION

5. Clause 1 provides that the Regulation shall come into operation on 1 July 2000. Clauses 2 and 3 provide for the conditions under which a Part II optometrist may be registered as a Part I optometrist.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. Public consultation is not considered necessary as the Regulation affects only registered optometrists. The Optometrists Board has been consulted and agrees with the proposed amendment.

BASIC LAW IMPLICATIONS

7. The Department of Justice advises that the Regulation is consistent with the Basic Law.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

8. The Department of Justice advises that the Regulation has no human rights implications.

BINDING EFFECT OF THE LEGISLATION

9. The Regulation will not affect the current binding effect of the Principal Ordinance.

FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no financial and staffing implications.

PUBLICITY

11. The Regulation will be published in the Gazette on 26 May 2000. A press release will be issued on the same day. A spokesman from the Optometrists Board will be available to handle media and public enquiries.

ENQUIRY

12. For any enquiries on the brief, please contact Mr Fletch CHAN, Assistant Secretary for Health and Welfare at 2973 8118.

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Health and Welfare Bureau
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