

OPTOMETRISTS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEES ON EDUCATION
OF THE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report to the Members of the
Second Session of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly

State of Iowa
1976

F I N A L R E P O R T

OPTOMETRISTS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEES ON EDUCATION OF THE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS

January, 1976

The Optometrist Subcommittee was established by the Legislative Council at its July 16, 1975 meeting in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 49, introduced during the Sixty-sixth General Assembly, First Session. The Legislative Council directed the Subcommittee to determine what remedies could be implemented to prevent a shortage of optometrists in Iowa, but specifically directed the Subcommittee not to consider as such a remedy the establishment of an independent school of optometry in Iowa.

The Legislative Council named the following members of the General Assembly to serve as members of the Subcommittee:

Senator Lucas J. DeKoster
Senator Fred W. Nolting
Senator Joan Orr
Senator William N. Plymat
Senator Bass Van Gilst
Representative Glenn F. Brockett
Representative Mattie Harper
Representative Wally Horn
Representative Robert M. Kreamer
Representative Carl V. Nielsen
Representative Mary O'Halloran
Representative John E. Patchett
Representative Delwyn Stromer

The Legislative Council designated Senator Van Gilst and Representative Horn to serve as Co-chairpersons. Staff persons assigned to the Subcommittee were Mr. Mark S. Soldat and Mrs. Mary Richards, both of the Legislative Service Bureau.

At its first meeting on November 10, 1975, the Subcommittee adopted rules of procedure and received testimony from the following persons:

Mr. Virg Deering, Executive Secretary, Iowa Optometric Association
Dr. H. Ray Wilson, Optometrist, Board of Optometry Examiners
Dr. Thomas Ward, Optometrist
Dr. James Manville, Optometrist
Dr. Phil Hottle, Optometrist
Dr. Rex Hinson, Optometrist

As a result of receiving testimony and subsequent discussion, the Subcommittee directed staff to:

1. Establish formal contact with the states of Minnesota and Missouri and the Council of State Governments to determine what progress midwestern states have made in terms of establishing schools of optometry and also to determine whether there is a possibility that the Subcommittee meet in conjunction with other states' committees who are studying the same problem.

2. Drafts a study bill for the purchase of seats at out-of-state optometric schools.

3. Draft a study resolution to establish a feasibility study concerned with how to implement a school of optometry within a school or college in Iowa.

At its December 9, 1975 meeting, the Subcommittee received the results of formal contact with other states and the Council. The results were nonconclusive and not acted upon by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee also modified and adopted as a recommendation the study bill and study resolution.

As a result of its study and consideration the Subcommittee makes the following recommendations to the Legislative Council and the Sixty-sixth General Assembly, Second Session:

1. That the attached bill be enacted.
2. That the attached resolution be passed.

PREPARED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
BUREAU AT THE REQUEST OF THE
OPTOMETRISTS STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE
IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
January, 1976.

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an optometry educational program and
2 making an appropriation for that program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. There is appropriated from the general fund
2 of the state for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1976 and
3 ending June 30, 1977 to the higher education facilities
4 commission the following amounts, or so much thereof as may
5 be necessary, to be used in the manner provided in section
6 two (2) of this Act:

7 1976-77

8 Fiscal Year

9 To the higher education facili-
10 ties commission to be used in the
11 manner provided in section two
12 (2) of this Act:

\$30,000

13 Sec. 2. The higher education facilities commission shall
14 contract with the proper officials of states which have
15 accredited schools and colleges of optometry for the admission
16 and education of qualified applicants who are domiciliaries
17 of Iowa and who have demonstrated interest, aptitude, and
18 readiness for study in the field of optometry. In making
19 a final determination of who is a domiciliary of Iowa, the
20 higher education facilities commission shall adopt rules for
21 the academic year commencing in 1976 and for each academic
22 year thereafter consistent with those followed for determining
23 Iowa resident students in section two hundred sixty-one point
24 fifteen (261.15) of the Code and be subject to the provisions
25 of chapter seventeen A (17A) of the Code.

26 Sec. 3. In carrying out its duties under the provisions
27 of this Act the higher education facilities commission shall
28 contract for the right of not less than ten qualified persons
29 to enter accredited schools and colleges of optometry during
30 the school year commencing in the year 1976. Funds expended
31 on behalf of each person shall not exceed three thousand
32 (3,000) dollars during any one fiscal year. The higher
33 education facilities commission shall make a report regarding
34 its duties under this Act to the legislative fiscal committee
35 at such time as the legislative fiscal committee shall request.

EXPLANATION

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This bill authorizes the higher education facilities com-
mission to contract with optometry schools to provide at least
ten seats for Iowa students for the school year beginning
in 1976. A total of \$30,000 is appropriated to carry out
this purpose for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976.

PREPARED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
BUREAU AT THE REQUEST OF THE
OPTOMETRISTS STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE IOWA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
January, 1976.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. _____

By

1 WHEREAS, the people of Iowa may soon experience
2 difficulty in securing professional vision care because
3 of the potential shortage of optometrists caused by
4 the high average age of the practicing optometrists
5 and the shortage of optometric colleges in the midwest
6 states' region; and

7 WHEREAS, the state of Iowa may need at least fifteen
8 to twenty graduates of optometry each year to maintain
9 the present optometrist-patient ratio considering
10 the expected population trend and the attrition rate
11 of practicing optometrists; and

12 WHEREAS, there is a shortage of optometrists
13 throughout the nation but especially so in the midwest
14 states' region where there is only one permanently-
15 established educational center; and

16 WHEREAS, optometry is one of the few major health
17 providers not having a professional college in Iowa;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, there are several Iowa educational centers
20 interested in establishing a division or school of
21 optometry, which establishment probably would solve
22 Iowa's vision care needs; NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE CONCURRING,
24 That the legislative council shall create a study
25 committee composed of appropriate persons to conduct
26 a study relating to the feasibility of establishing
27 a division or school of optometry in Iowa. This study
28 shall answer the following questions:

29 1. Should Iowa have a division or school of op-
30 tometry?

- 1 2. What costs are involved?
- 2 3. Where should this division or school be located?
- 3 4. If a division or school of optometry is not
- 4 feasible, what steps should be taken to provide an
- 5 adequate supply of optometrists for Iowa in the future?

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the study committee
7 shall prepare a report of its findings and submit
8 it to the legislative council not later than November
9 1, 1976 and to members of the Sixty-seventh General
10 Assembly of the 1977 session.

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