

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5500



Introduced by **Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There are fake eye doctors who engage in the practice of optometry.

This may very well be a situation occurring in various parts of the country when pseudo-optometrists go into the practice of optometry without having acquired the appropriate professional licenses from the Professional Regulation Commission.

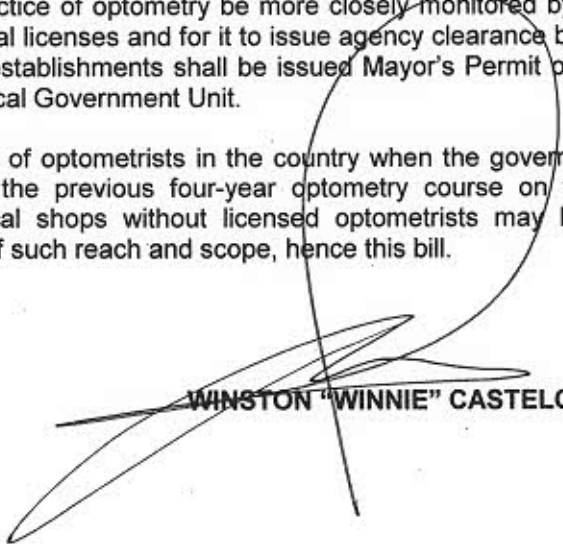
This scheme may have been too prevalent when a significant number of optical shops as those we find in malls do operate as if they were legitimate business establishments even though only very few of these shops have licensed optometrists. This observation has been validated by the PRC Board of Optometry.

And yet, the use of contact lenses and eyeglasses, since they are medical devices do need to be prescribed by eye specialists and the term, 'eye specialists' refer to PRC-licensed optometrists.

The improper use of eyeglasses and contact lenses are found to eventually lead to cataract or glaucoma or other related eye problems if not blindness on the part of the unsuspecting buyer or user of these medical products.

To give Professional Regulation Commission a shot in the arm, therefore, requires that the practice of optometry be more closely monitored by PRC which alone can issue professional licenses and for it to issue agency clearance before optical shops or similar business establishments shall be issued Mayor's Permit or Business License by the concerned Local Government Unit.

The shortage of optometrists in the country when the government opted to add two more years to the previous four-year optometry course on the one hand and proliferation of optical shops without licensed optometrists may lead to an entirely unhealthy situation of such reach and scope, hence this bill.


WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
REQUIRING LICENSE AND CLEARANCE FROM PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
COMMISSION FOR THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY AND OPERATION OF
OPTICAL SHOPS, RESPECTIVELY AND THE SAME TO BE STRICTLY ENFORCED
BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted in Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The Professional Regulation Commission shall hereby require license for the practice of optometry and issue appropriate clearance for the operation of optical shops and the same to be strictly enforced by the Local Government Unit concerned.

SEC. 2. The use of contact lenses and/or eyeglasses, since they are medical devices, should only be as prescribed by an eye specialist in the person of a licensed optometrist only.

SEC. 3. Business establishments involved in the sale of contact lenses or eyeglasses such as but not limited to optical shops shall likewise be issued agency clearance from the Professional Regulation Commission before their Mayor's Permit or Business License, as the case may be, shall be issued by the concerned Local Government Unit.

SEC. 4. All issuances, laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof not consistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5 This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days following its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least four (4) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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