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ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 29, 1949

John E. Farendorf, O.D. Sec'y-Treas.  
State Board of Optometry  
144 East Glendale Avenue  
Glendale, Arizona

Dear Doctor Farendorf:

In reply to your letter of August 24, 1949  
wherein you ask:

" \* \* \* Must we accept for exam-  
ination a graduate of a school of  
Optometry, which school has never  
been accredited by this or any  
other Board of Examiners in  
Optometry in Arizona, under the  
five year clause \* \* \* "

Which said clause is 67-1404:

" \* \* \* In lieu of the evidence of  
education, the applicant may furnish  
a certificate issued by the board  
of optometry or other agency of  
another state or foreign country  
authorized by law to grant licenses  
to practice optometry, evidencing  
that the applicant has been a  
licensed practitioner of optometry  
in such state or foreign country  
for not less than five (5) years,  
and shall furnish such further  
evidence as the board may require  
concerning his knowledge of and  
ability in the practice of optom-  
etry and the class of practice he  
has previously pursued."

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This law in substance authorizes the Board to grant Arizona examination for license on reciprocity basis. An applicant furnishing a certificate from another state, evidencing that he has been a licensed practitioner of optometry for not less than five years, is entitled to obtain an Arizona examination for a license without the necessity of furnishing evidence of education, excepting that the Board may require further evidence concerning his knowledge.

We are of the opinion that the Board may by its rules and regulations prescribe what further evidence the applicant should submit to the Board. This necessarily implies that the Board may test the applicant on his practical, professional competence and the class of practice he has previously pursued as distinguished from his theoretical or scientific knowledge of the subject, before he is given the privilege of an examination.

It appears to us that the Board may follow the above suggested procedure to further satisfy itself of the practical knowledge of the applicant, but may not require a diploma from an accredited school or other evidence of education of the applicant.

The answer to your question is "yes".

Very truly yours,

FRED O. WILSON  
Attorney General

CHAS. ROGERS  
Assistant Attorney General

CR/bf

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