

in Optometry evidence of satisfactory completion of all educational requirements. Now, are optometrists at the present time trained in the use of these drugs?

SENATOR CLARK: Are you asking me?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I am, Senator.

SENATOR CLARK: I'll say they are, yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Are they presently...what does that training consist of, or has it been outlined in the bill or will it be outlined?

SENATOR CLARK: It has been outlined in the bill, and I haven't had a chance to explain the bill yet, but they've had 85 hours of Pharmacology, 15 hours of clinical work and 5 hours of testing, and that course was approved by the Board of Optometry and the Department of Health.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But it does not necessarily mean that it is approved by those who are qualified in the use of those drugs. Is that not right?

SENATOR CLARK: It's absolutely approved by the Board of Optometry, the Examining Board of Optometry and the Board of Health. The course has to be approved, or any schools teaching this also have to be approved by both. What we've done here...not just by the Board of Optometry but also by the Board of Health...it has to be approved by both. That's what the amendment does.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, but at the present time there are no specific requirements relative to those educational requirements in the bill?

SENATOR CLARK: Oh yes. You mean for the number of hours?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well the number of hours of the specific training in the use of the specific drugs that you have mentioned.

SENATOR CLARK: Absolutely not. There isn't in any that I know of in any Podiatry or medicine or anything else. It's only courses that are approved by those boards to the Board of Health. You can't specifically put it in the statute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I think it might be well to be specific about the requirements for training. You know we require certain specifics for any...for many kinds of licensure, and I think that if we're going to utilize these drugs in diagnostic purposes,