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I N S E N A T E

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Introduced by Sens. GRIFFO, BONACIC, DeFRANCISCO, ESPAILLAT, HASSELL-THOMPSON, LARKIN, MARTINS, MAZIARZ, O'MARA, OPPENHEIMER, RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to the licensing of orientation and mobility specialists and rehabilitation therapists

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new article 167 to
2 read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 167

4 VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES

5 SECTION 8800. INTRODUCTION.

6 8801. DEFINITIONS.

7 8802. USE OF THE TITLES "LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY
8 SPECIALISTS" AND "VISION REHABILITATION THERAPISTS".

9 8803. STATE BOARD FOR VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES.

10 8804. REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSE.

11 8805. LIMITED PERMITS.

12 8806. EXEMPT PERSONS.

13 8807. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

14 8808. SEPARABILITY.

15 S 8800. INTRODUCTION. THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO THE PROFESSION OF VISION
16 REHABILITATION SERVICES, AND PROVIDES FOR THE LICENSING OF LICENSED

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

LBD09759-09-2

1 ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS AND VISION REHABILITATION THERA-
2 PISTS. THE GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR ALL PROFESSIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE
3 ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THIS TITLE SHALL APPLY TO THIS ARTICLE.

4 S 8801. DEFINITIONS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING TERMS
5 SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

6 1. THE PRACTICE OF "ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING" SHALL MEAN:
7 (A) THE ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF PERSONS WHO ARE VISUALLY
8 IMPAIRED FOR SKILLS TRAINING IN METHODS OF SAFE MOVEMENT AND IN STRATE-
9 GIES TO GATHER REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SPATIAL INFORMATION; (B) THE
10 DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE INTEGRATED SERVICE PLANS TAILORED TO MEET
11 SUCH INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AS IDENTIFIED IN SUCH ASSESSMENT PROCESS; (C) THE
12 PROVISION OF TRAINING IN, AND UTILIZATION OF (I) EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTIVE
13 DEVICES INTENDED AND DESIGNED FOR USE BY PERSONS WHO ARE VISUALLY
14 IMPAIRED, AND (II) SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES ADAPTED FOR PERSONS WHO ARE
15 VISUALLY IMPAIRED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ORIENTATION; SENSORY
16 DEVELOPMENT; SYSTEMS OF SAFE MOVEMENT, INCLUDING LONG CANE TECHNIQUES;
17 RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION AND, AS APPROPRIATE, PROFESSIONAL REFERRALS;
18 AND, IN APPLIED SETTINGS, REINFORCING INSTRUCTION FOR THE USE OF OPTICAL
19 DEVICES AS PRESCRIBED BY OPTOMETRISTS AND OPHTHALMOLOGISTS; AND (D) THE
20 EVALUATION OF CLIENTS RECEIVING SUCH SPECIALIZED TRAINING.

21 2. THE PRACTICE OF "VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY" SHALL MEAN: (A) THE
22 ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF PERSONS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED FOR
23 SKILLS TRAINING IN INDEPENDENT LIVING AND COMMUNICATIONS; (B) THE DEVEL-
24 OPMENT OF APPROPRIATE INTEGRATED SERVICE PLANS TAILORED TO MEET SUCH
25 INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AS IDENTIFIED IN SUCH ASSESSMENT PROCESS; (C) THE
26 PROVISION OF TRAINING IN, AND UTILIZATION OF (I) EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTIVE
27 DEVICES INTENDED AND DESIGNED FOR USE BY PERSONS WHO ARE VISUALLY
28 IMPAIRED, INCLUDING, IN APPLIED SETTINGS, REINFORCING INSTRUCTION FOR
29 THE USE OF OPTICAL DEVICES AS PRESCRIBED BY OPTOMETRISTS OR OPHTHALMOLO-
30 GISTS, AND (II) SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES ADAPTED FOR PERSONS WHO ARE VISU-
31 ALLY IMPAIRED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BRAILLE AND OTHER COMMUNI-
32 CATION SKILLS; ADAPTED COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY; PERSONAL MANAGEMENT SKILLS;
33 HOME MANAGEMENT SKILLS; PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS; RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND,
34 AS APPROPRIATE, PROFESSIONAL REFERRALS; AND (D) THE EVALUATION OF
35 PERSONS RECEIVING SUCH SPECIALIZED TRAINING.

36 3. THE PRACTICE OF "VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES" SHALL MEAN PROVID-
37 ING ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF, AND TRAINING FOR, PERSONS WHO ARE
38 VISUALLY IMPAIRED WHEN SUCH ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND TRAINING INCORPO-
39 RATES THE FULL RANGE OF SPECIALIZED SKILLS AND TASKS SUBSUMED IN THE TWO
40 PROFESSIONS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION AS: (A) ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY
41 TRAINING AND (B) VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY. SUCH SERVICES SHALL BE
42 RENDERED ON THE PRESCRIPTION OR REFERRAL WHICH MAY BE DIRECTIVE AS TO
43 TREATMENT BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR OPTOMETRIST, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT
44 NO SUCH TREATMENT DIRECTIVE AND LOW VISION EXAMINATION SHALL BE REQUIRED
45 WHEN THE PERSON BEING REFERRED HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS
46 TWELVE MONTHS AS VISUALLY IMPAIRED, BLIND OR LEGALLY BLIND AS THOSE
47 TERMS ARE DEFINED IN SUBDIVISION FIVE OF THIS SECTION AND SUCH SERVICES
48 ARE BEING RENDERED CONSISTENT WITH THAT DIAGNOSIS, PRESCRIPTION OR
49 REFERRAL. VISION REHABILITATION THERAPISTS AND ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY
50 SPECIALISTS MAY NOT PRESCRIBE OPTICAL LOW VISION DEVICES.

51 4. "APPLIED SETTINGS" MEANS THOSE LOCATIONS WHERE PERSONS WHO ARE
52 VISUALLY IMPAIRED ENGAGE IN DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES UTILIZING THE TOOLS
53 SUPPLIED AND TECHNIQUES TAUGHT BY THE LICENSED PRACTITIONERS DEFINED IN
54 THIS ARTICLE.

55 5. "VISUALLY IMPAIRED" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS TOTALLY BLIND, LEGALLY
56 BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED. A PERSON WHO IS BLIND IS ONE WHO HAS NO

1 USEABLE VISION. A PERSON WHO IS LEGALLY BLIND IS ONE WHO SATISFIES THE
2 DEFINITION SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION B OF SECTION THREE OF CHAPTER FOUR
3 HUNDRED FIFTEEN OF THE LAWS OF NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTEEN. A PERSON WHO
4 IS PARTIALLY SIGHTED IS ONE WHO HAS FUNCTIONAL VISION IMPAIRMENT THAT
5 CONSTITUTES A SIGNIFICANT LIMITATION OF VISUAL CAPABILITY RESULTING FROM
6 DISEASE, TRAUMA, OR CONGENITAL CONDITION, THAT CANNOT BE FULLY AMELIO-
7 RATED BY STANDARD REFRACTIVE CORRECTION, MEDICATION, OR SURGERY, AND
8 THAT IS MANIFESTED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: INSUFFICIENT VISUAL
9 RESOLUTION, INADEQUATE FIELD OF VISION OR REDUCED PEAK CONTRAST SENSI-
10 TIVITY.

11 S 8802. USE OF THE TITLES "LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIAL-
12 ISTS" AND "VISION REHABILITATION THERAPISTS". 1. PRACTICE OF ORIE-
13 NTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING AND USE OF THE TITLE "LICENSED ORIENTATION
14 AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS". ONLY A PERSON LICENSED OR OTHERWISE AUTHOR-
15 IZED UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL PRACTICE ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING
16 OR USE THE TITLE "LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS" IN
17 CONNECTION WITH HIS OR HER NAME OR WITH ANY TRADE NAME IN THE CONDUCT OF
18 HIS OR HER PROFESSION.

19 2. PRACTICE OF VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY AND USE OF THE TITLE
20 "VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST". ONLY A PERSON LICENSED OR OTHERWISE
21 AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL PRACTICE VISION REHABILITATION THER-
22 APY OR USE THE TITLE "VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST" IN CONNECTION
23 WITH HIS OR HER NAME OR WITH ANY TRADE NAME IN THE CONDUCT OF HIS OR HER
24 PROFESSION.

25 S 8803. STATE BOARD FOR VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES. A STATE BOARD
26 FOR VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF
27 REGENTS UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR THE PURPOSE OF
28 ASSISTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT ON MATTERS OF PROFES-
29 SIONAL LICENSING AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
30 SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED EIGHT OF THIS TITLE. THE BOARD SHALL CONSIST OF NOT
31 LESS THAN FOURTEEN INDIVIDUALS, FOUR OF WHOM SHALL BE LICENSED ORIE-
32 NTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS, FOUR OF WHOM SHALL BE LICENSED VISION
33 REHABILITATION THERAPISTS, ONE OPHTHALMOLOGIST SPECIALIZING IN LOW
34 VISION TREATMENT, ONE OPTOMETRIST SPECIALIZING IN LOW VISION TREATMENT
35 AND FOUR OF WHOM SHALL BE BLIND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE
36 WHOSE NAMES WILL BE PLACED IN NOMINATION FOR THE BOARD FROM ORGANIZA-
37 TIONS OF THE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED. MEMBERS OF THE INITIAL BOARD
38 NEED NOT BE LICENSED PRIOR TO THEIR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD. OF THE
39 MEMBERS FIRST APPOINTED, FOUR SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR A THREE YEAR TERM,
40 FIVE SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR A FOUR YEAR TERM, AND FIVE SHALL BE
41 APPOINTED FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM. THEREAFTER ALL MEMBERS SHALL SERVE FOR
42 FIVE YEAR TERMS. IN THE EVENT THAT MORE THAN FOURTEEN MEMBERS ARE
43 APPOINTED, A MAJORITY OF THE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS SHALL BE LICENSED ORIE-
44 NTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS AND LICENSED VISION REHABILITATION THER-
45 APISTS. THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD SHALL SELECT ONE OF THEMSELVES AS CHAIR
46 TO SERVE FOR A ONE YEAR TERM. AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHALL BE APPOINTED
47 BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSIONER.

48 S 8804. REQUIREMENTS FOR A LICENSE. 1. TO QUALIFY FOR A LICENSE AS AN
49 ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST, AN APPLICANT SHALL FULFILL THE
50 FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

51 (A) APPLICATION: FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT;

52 (B) EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE: (I) HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED AN
53 APPROVED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY CURRICULUM IN A BACCALAUREATE OR
54 MASTERS PROGRAM, OR A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT
55 WHICH IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM, IN
56 ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS; AND

1 (II) HAVE A MINIMUM OF THREE MONTHS OF SUPERVISED ORIENTATION AND
2 MOBILITY EXPERIENCE WHICH SUPERVISION AND EXPERIENCE SHALL BE SATISFAC-
3 TORY TO THE STATE BOARD FOR VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES AND IN
4 ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS;

5 (C) EXAMINATION: PASS AN EXAMINATION SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND IN
6 ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS THAT MAY BE BASED ON AN
7 EXAM UTILIZED BY ANY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING OR CERTIFICATION
8 BODY SUCH AS THE ACADEMY FOR CERTIFICATION OF VISION REHABILITATION AND
9 EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS (ACVREP), NATIONAL ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY
10 CERTIFICATE (NOMC) ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL BLINDNESS PROFESSIONAL
11 CERTIFICATION BOARD (NBPCB) OR AN EQUIVALENT EXAM.

12 (D) AGE: BE AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE;

13 (E) CHARACTER: BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPART-
14 MENT;

15 (F) REGISTRATION: ALL LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS
16 SHALL REGISTER TRIENNIALLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
17 COMMISSIONER'S REGULATION;

18 (G) MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY: (I)(A) EACH LICENSED ORIENTATION
19 AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST REQUIRED UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO REGISTER TRIENNI-
20 ALLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO PRACTICE IN THE STATE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE
21 PROVISIONS OF THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS
22 PRESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN
23 CLAUSES (B) AND (C) OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH. ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY
24 SPECIALISTS WHO DO NOT SATISFY THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY
25 REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE UNTIL THEY HAVE MET
26 SUCH REQUIREMENTS, AND THEY HAVE BEEN ISSUED A REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE,
27 EXCEPT THAT AN ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST MAY PRACTICE WITHOUT
28 HAVING MET SUCH REQUIREMENTS IF HE OR SHE IS ISSUED A CONDITIONAL REGIS-
29 TRATION PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

30 (B) ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE
31 MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRA-
32 TION PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY ARE FIRST LICENSED. ADJUSTMENT TO THE
33 MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS MAY BE GRANTED BY THE
34 DEPARTMENT FOR REASONS OF HEALTH OF THE LICENSEE WHERE CERTIFIED BY AN
35 APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, FOR EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE
36 ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, OR FOR OTHER GOOD CAUSE ACCEPTABLE TO
37 THE DEPARTMENT WHICH MAY PREVENT COMPLIANCE.

38 (C) A LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST NOT ENGAGED IN
39 PRACTICE, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE
40 MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT UPON THE FILING OF A STATE-
41 MENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT DECLARING SUCH STATUS. ANY LICENSEE WHO RETURNS
42 TO PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION OF ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST
43 DURING THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT
44 PRIOR TO REENTERING THE PROFESSION AND SHALL MEET SUCH MANDATORY CONTIN-
45 UING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS AS SHALL BE PRESCRIBED BY REGULATIONS OF
46 THE COMMISSIONER.

47 (II) DURING EACH TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD AN APPLICANT FOR REGIS-
48 TRATION AS AN ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST SHALL COMPLETE A MINI-
49 MUM OF TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF ACCEPTABLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES WHICH
50 CONTRIBUTE TO CONTINUING COMPETENCE, AS SPECIFIED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (IV)
51 OF THIS PARAGRAPH, PROVIDED FURTHER THAT AT LEAST SIXTEEN HOURS SHALL BE
52 IN RECOGNIZED AREAS OF STUDY PERTINENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SCOPE OF A
53 LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST. ANY ORIENTATION AND MOBIL-
54 ITY SPECIALIST WHOSE FIRST REGISTRATION DATE FOLLOWING THE EFFECTIVE
55 DATE OF THIS SECTION OCCURS LESS THAN THREE YEARS FROM SUCH EFFECTIVE
56 DATE, BUT ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN, SHALL

1 COMPLETE CONTINUING COMPETENCY HOURS ON A PRORATED BASIS AT THE RATE OF
2 ONE-HALF HOUR PER MONTH FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY FIRST, TWO
3 THOUSAND FOURTEEN UP TO THE FIRST REGISTRATION DATE. THEREAFTER, A
4 LICENSEE WHO HAS NOT SATISFIED THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY
5 REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE ISSUED A TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE BY
6 THE DEPARTMENT AND SHALL NOT PRACTICE UNLESS AND UNTIL A CONDITIONAL
7 REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS PROVIDED FOR IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III)
8 OF THIS PARAGRAPH. CONTINUING COMPETENCY HOURS TAKEN DURING ONE TRIENNI-
9 UM MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO A SUBSEQUENT TRIENNIUM.

10 (III) THE DEPARTMENT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ISSUE A CONDITIONAL
11 REGISTRATION TO A LICENSEE WHO FAILS TO MEET THE CONTINUING COMPETENCY
12 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, BUT WHO
13 AGREES TO MAKE UP ANY DEFICIENCIES AND COMPLETE ANY ADDITIONAL LEARNING
14 ACTIVITIES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE. THE FEE FOR SUCH A CONDI-
15 TIONAL REGISTRATION SHALL BE THE SAME AS, AND IN ADDITION TO, THE FEE
16 FOR THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION. THE DURATION OF SUCH CONDITIONAL REGIS-
17 TRATION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT BUT SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE
18 YEAR. ANY LICENSEE WHO IS NOTIFIED OF THE DENIAL OF REGISTRATION FOR
19 FAILURE TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE, SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT, OF REQUIRED
20 CONTINUING COMPETENCY LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND WHO PRACTICES WITHOUT SUCH
21 REGISTRATION, MAY BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO
22 SECTION SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS TITLE.

23 (IV) AS USED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "ACCEPTABLE
24 LEARNING ACTIVITIES" SHALL MEAN ACTIVITIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE
25 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF AN ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST AND
26 WHICH MEET THE STANDARDS PRESCRIBED IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMIS-
27 SIONER. SUCH LEARNING ACTIVITIES SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO,
28 COLLEGIATE LEVEL CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT COURSES, SELF-STUDY ACTIVITIES,
29 INDEPENDENT STUDY, FORMAL MENTORING ACTIVITIES, PUBLICATIONS IN PROFES-
30 SIONAL JOURNALS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL
31 SESSIONS; SUCH LEARNING ACTIVITIES MAY BE OFFERED AND SPONSORED BY
32 NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZA-
33 TIONS OR PARTIES ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND ANY OTHER ORGANIZED
34 EDUCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPART-
35 MENT. RECOGNIZED AREAS OF STUDY SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:
36 KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TRAINING IN ORIENTATION, MOBILITY, NAVIGATION,
37 INDEPENDENT LIVING, COMMUNICATIONS AND USE OF PRESCRIBED AND, ADAPTIVE
38 OPTICAL DEVICES; UTILIZATION OF SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT
39 INTENDED FOR USE BY PERSONS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED; THE MEDICAL
40 ASPECTS OF VISION LOSS AND ITS FUNCTIONAL IMPACT ON PERSONS WHO ARE
41 VISUALLY IMPAIRED; AND SUCH OTHER TECHNICAL SUBJECT MATTER AREAS APPRO-
42 PRIATELY RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES AS
43 MAY BE SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSION-
44 ER'S REGULATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION AND AS NEEDED TO
45 CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC, REQUIRE THE
46 COMPLETION OF CONTINUING COMPETENCY LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN SPECIFIC
47 SUBJECTS TO FULFILL THIS MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT.
48 LEARNING ACTIVITIES MUST BE TAKEN FROM A SPONSOR APPROVED BY THE DEPART-
49 MENT, PURSUANT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER.

50 (V) ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALISTS SHALL MAINTAIN ADEQUATE
51 DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLETION OF ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING COMPETENCY LEARNING
52 ACTIVITIES AND SHALL PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION AT THE REQUEST OF THE
53 DEPARTMENT. FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION UPON THE REQUEST OF
54 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE AN ACT OF MISCONDUCT SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY
55 PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS TITLE.

(VI) THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY FEE SHALL BE FIFTY DOLLARS, SHALL BE PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF EACH TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD, AND SHALL BE PAID IN ADDITION TO THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (H) OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

(H) FEES: PAY A FEE OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR AN INITIAL LICENSE AND A FEE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR EACH TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD.

2. TO QUALIFY FOR A LICENSE AS A VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST AN APPLICANT SHALL FULFILL THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

(A) APPLICATION: FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT;

(B) EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE: (I) HAVE SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED AN APPROVED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST CURRICULUM IN A BACCALAUREATE OR MASTERS PROGRAM, OR A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT WHICH IS SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS; AND

(II) HAVE A MINIMUM OF THREE MONTHS OF SUPERVISED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST EXPERIENCE WHICH SUPERVISION AND EXPERIENCE SHALL BE SATISFACTORY TO THE STATE BOARD FOR VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS;

(C) EXAMINATION: PASS AN EXAMINATION SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS THAT MAY BE BASED ON AN EXAM UTILIZED BY ANY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING OR CERTIFICATION BODY SUCH AS THE ACADEMY FOR CERTIFICATION OF VISION REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS (ACVREP), NATIONAL ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY CERTIFICATE (NOMC) ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL BLINDNESS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION BOARD (NBPCB) OR AN EQUIVALENT EXAM.

(D) AGE: BE AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE;

(E) CHARACTER: BE OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT;

(F) REGISTRATION: ALL LICENSED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPISTS SHALL REGISTER TRIENNIALLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS;

(G) MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY: (I) (A) EACH LICENSED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST REQUIRED UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO REGISTER TRIENNIALLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO PRACTICE IN THE STATE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN CLAUSES (B) AND (C) OF THIS PARAGRAPH. VISION REHABILITATION THERAPISTS WHO DO NOT SATISFY THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE UNTIL THEY HAVE MET SUCH REQUIREMENTS, AND THEY HAVE BEEN ISSUED A REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE, EXCEPT THAT A VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST MAY PRACTICE WITHOUT HAVING MET SUCH REQUIREMENTS IF HE OR SHE IS ISSUED A CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(B) VISION REHABILITATION THERAPISTS SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY ARE FIRST LICENSED. ADJUSTMENT TO THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS MAY BE GRANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR REASONS OF HEALTH OF THE LICENSEE WHERE CERTIFIED BY AN APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL, FOR EXTENDED ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, OR FOR OTHER GOOD CAUSE ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT WHICH MAY PREVENT COMPLIANCE.

(C) A LICENSED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST NOT ENGAGED IN PRACTICE, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT UPON THE FILING OF A STATEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT DECLARING SUCH STATUS. ANY LICENSEE WHO RETURNS TO PRACTICE

1 TICE OF VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY DURING THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION
2 PERIOD SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO REENTERING THE PROFESSION
3 AND SHALL MEET SUCH MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS AS
4 SHALL BE PRESCRIBED BY REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER.

5 (II) DURING EACH TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD AN APPLICANT FOR REGIS-
6 TRATION AS A VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST SHALL COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF
7 TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF ACCEPTABLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO
8 CONTINUING COMPETENCE, AS SPECIFIED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF THIS PARA-
9 GRAPH, PROVIDED FURTHER THAT AT LEAST SIXTEEN HOURS SHALL BE IN RECOG-
10 NIZED AREAS OF STUDY PERTINENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SCOPE OF A LICENSED
11 VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST. ANY VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST
12 WHOSE FIRST REGISTRATION DATE FOLLOWING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
13 SECTION OCCURS LESS THAN THREE YEARS FROM SUCH EFFECTIVE DATE, BUT ON OR
14 AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN, SHALL COMPLETE CONTINUING
15 COMPETENCY HOURS ON A PRORATED BASIS AT THE RATE OF ONE-HALF HOUR PER
16 MONTH FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN UP
17 TO THE FIRST REGISTRATION DATE. THEREAFTER, A LICENSEE WHO HAS NOT
18 SATISFIED THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS SHALL NOT BE
19 ISSUED A TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE BY THE DEPARTMENT AND SHALL
20 NOT PRACTICE UNLESS AND UNTIL A CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE IS
21 ISSUED AS PROVIDED FOR IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH. CONTIN-
22 UING COMPETENCY HOURS TAKEN DURING ONE TRIENNIUM MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED
23 TO A SUBSEQUENT TRIENNIUM.

24 (III) THE DEPARTMENT, IN ITS DISCRETION, MAY ISSUE A CONDITIONAL
25 REGISTRATION TO A LICENSEE WHO FAILS TO MEET THE CONTINUING COMPETENCY
26 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, BUT WHO
27 AGREES TO MAKE UP ANY DEFICIENCIES AND COMPLETE ANY ADDITIONAL LEARNING
28 ACTIVITIES WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE. THE FEE FOR SUCH A CONDI-
29 TIONAL REGISTRATION SHALL BE THE SAME AS, AND IN ADDITION TO, THE FEE
30 FOR THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION. THE DURATION OF SUCH CONDITIONAL REGIS-
31 TRATION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT BUT SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE
32 YEAR. ANY LICENSEE WHO IS NOTIFIED OF THE DENIAL OF REGISTRATION FOR
33 FAILURE TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE, SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT, OF REQUIRED
34 CONTINUING COMPETENCY LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND WHO PRACTICES WITHOUT SUCH
35 REGISTRATION, MAY BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO
36 SECTION SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS TITLE.

37 (IV) AS USED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, "ACCEPTABLE
38 LEARNING ACTIVITIES" SHALL MEAN ACTIVITIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE
39 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF A VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST AND WHICH
40 MEET THE STANDARDS PRESCRIBED IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER.
41 SUCH LEARNING ACTIVITIES SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, COLLEGI-
42 ATE LEVEL CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT COURSES, SELF-STUDY ACTIVITIES, INDE-
43 PENDENT STUDY, FORMAL MENTORING ACTIVITIES, PUBLICATIONS IN PROFESSIONAL
44 JOURNALS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL SESSIONS; SUCH
45 LEARNING ACTIVITIES MAY BE OFFERED AND SPONSORED BY NATIONAL, STATE AND
46 LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR PARTIES
47 ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT, AND ANY OTHER ORGANIZED EDUCATIONAL AND
48 TECHNICAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT. RECOGNIZED
49 AREAS OF STUDY SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO: KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
50 TRAINING IN MOBILITY, NAVIGATION, INDEPENDENT LIVING, COMMUNICATIONS AND
51 ORIENTATION, USE OF PRESCRIBED AND, ADAPTIVE OPTICAL DEVICES; UTILIZA-
52 TION OF SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR USE BY PERSONS
53 WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED; THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF VISION LOSS AND ITS
54 FUNCTIONAL IMPACT ON PERSONS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED; AND SUCH OTHER
55 TECHNICAL SUBJECT MATTER AREAS APPROPRIATELY RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF
56 VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES AS MAY BE SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND

1 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY,
2 IN ITS DISCRETION AND AS NEEDED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE
3 OF THE PUBLIC, REQUIRE THE COMPLETION OF CONTINUING COMPETENCY LEARNING
4 ACTIVITIES IN SPECIFIC SUBJECTS TO FULFILL THIS MANDATORY CONTINUING
5 COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT. LEARNING ACTIVITIES MUST BE TAKEN FROM A SPON-
6 SOR APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT, PURSUANT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE
7 COMMISSIONER.

8 (V) VISION REHABILITATION THERAPISTS SHALL MAINTAIN ADEQUATE DOCUMEN-
9 TATION OF COMPLETION OF ACCEPTABLE CONTINUING COMPETENCY LEARNING ACTIV-
10 ITIES AND SHALL PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPART-
11 MENT. FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUCH DOCUMENTATION UPON THE REQUEST OF THE
12 DEPARTMENT SHALL BE AN ACT OF MISCONDUCT SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY
13 PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED TEN OF THIS TITLE.

14 (VI) THE MANDATORY CONTINUING COMPETENCY FEE SHALL BE FIFTY DOLLARS,
15 SHALL BE PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF EACH TRIENNIAL REGISTRA-
16 TION PERIOD, AND SHALL BE PAID IN ADDITION TO THE TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION
17 FEE REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (H) OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

18 (H) FEES: PAY A FEE OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR AN INITIAL
19 LICENSE AND A FEE OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR EACH TRIENNIAL
20 REGISTRATION PERIOD.

21 S 8805. LIMITED PERMITS. PERMITS LIMITED AS TO ELIGIBILITY, PRACTICE
22 AND DURATION SHALL BE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AS
23 FOLLOWS:

24 1. ELIGIBILITY. A PERSON WHO FULFILLS ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ORIEN-
25 TATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST OR VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST,
26 EXCEPT THAT RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION, SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A LIMITED
27 PERMIT.

28 2. LIMIT OF PRACTICE. ALL PRACTICE UNDER A LIMITED PERMIT SHALL BE
29 UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY
30 SPECIALIST OR A VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST.

31 3. DURATION. A LIMITED PERMIT SHALL EXPIRE ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF
32 ISSUANCE OR UPON NOTICE TO THE PERMITTEE BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE
33 APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE HAS BEEN DENIED, OR UPON NOTICE TO THE PERMIT-
34 TEE OF FAILURE ON THE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING EXAMINATION, WHICHEVER
35 FIRST OCCURS.

36 4. FEES. THE FEE FOR EACH LIMITED PERMIT SHALL BE SEVENTY DOLLARS.

37 S 8806. EXEMPT PERSONS. THIS ARTICLE SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED TO AFFECT
38 OR PREVENT THE FOLLOWING, PROVIDED THAT NO TITLE, SIGN, CARD OR DEVICE
39 SHALL BE USED IN SUCH MANNER AS TO TEND TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT
40 THE PERSON RENDERING SUCH SERVICE IS A LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY
41 SPECIALIST OR VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST:

42 1. THE PRACTICE OF ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING OR VISION REHA-
43 BILITATION THERAPY AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A PROGRAM OF STUDY BY STUDENTS
44 ENROLLED IN APPROVED EDUCATIONAL OR TRAINING PROGRAMS IN (A) ORIENTATION
45 AND MOBILITY TRAINING OR (B) VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY.

46 2. THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY OF THE DUTIES, TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
47 INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING BY ANY
48 OTHER DULY LICENSED, CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER,
49 PROVIDED THAT SUCH DUTIES, TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE WITHIN THE
50 SCOPE OF HIS OR HER PRACTICE AS DEFINED IN THE ARTICLE PURSUANT TO WHICH
51 SUCH PERSON IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED; PROVIDED, HOWEVER,
52 THAT SUCH PRACTITIONERS MAY NOT HOLD THEMSELVES OUT UNDER THE TITLE
53 "LICENSED ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST" OR AS PERFORMING LICENSED
54 ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING.

55 3. THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY OF THE DUTIES, TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
56 INCLUDED IN THE DEFINITION OF VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY BY ANY OTHER

1 DULY LICENSED, CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, PROVIDED
2 THAT SUCH DUTIES, TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HIS
3 OR HER PRACTICE AS DEFINED IN THE ARTICLE OR COMMISSIONER'S REGULATION
4 PURSUANT TO WHICH SUCH PERSON IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED;
5 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH PRACTITIONERS MAY NOT HOLD THEMSELVES OUT
6 UNDER THE TITLE "LICENSED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST" OR AS
7 PERFORMING LICENSED VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY. WITH THE EXCEPTION
8 THAT OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MAY HOLD THEMSELVES OUT AS PROVIDING VISION
9 REHABILITATION THERAPY OR VISION REHABILITATION SERVICES.

10 4. THE PRACTICE, CONDUCT, ACTIVITIES, SERVICES OR USE OF ANY TITLE BY
11 ANY PERSON LICENSED OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE WITHIN
12 THE STATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE OF THIS TITLE OR BY
13 ANY PERSON REGISTERED TO PERFORM SERVICES AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
14 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE-B OF THIS TITLE.

15 5. THE PRACTICE OF ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING OR VISION REHA-
16 BILITATION THERAPY BY ANY LEGALLY QUALIFIED PRACTITIONER OF ORIENTATION
17 AND MOBILITY TRAINING OR VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY OF ANY OTHER
18 STATE OR TERRITORY WHO IS SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES OR THE PUBLIC
19 HEALTH SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES WHILE ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF
20 HIS OR HER DUTIES.

21 6. THE INSTRUCTION IN THE USE OF A DOG GUIDE.

22 S 8807. SPECIAL PROVISIONS. A PERSON SHALL BE LICENSED WITHOUT EXAM-
23 INATION PROVIDED THAT, WITHIN THREE YEARS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
24 ARTICLE, SUCH PERSON:

25 1. FILES AN APPLICATION AND PAYS THE APPROPRIATE FEES TO THE DEPART-
26 MENT;

27 2. (A) HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER, OR EQUIVALENT AS DETER-
28 MINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN ORIENTATION AND MOBIL-
29 ITY TRAINING; OR (B) HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER, OR EQUIVALENT
30 AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN VISION REHA-
31 BILITATION THERAPY; OR (C) HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER, OR
32 EQUIVALENT AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN A REHABILITATION FIELD OR
33 IN SPECIAL EDUCATION AND (I) HAS COMPLETED ALL ADDITIONALLY REQUIRED
34 ELEMENTS OF THE ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING OR VISION REHABILI-
35 TATION THERAPY CURRICULUM SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND IN ACCORDANCE
36 WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS; OR (II) HAS BEEN CERTIFIED IN
37 ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING OR VISION REHABILITATION THERAPY BY A
38 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING BODY ACCEPTABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT; AND

39 3. SUBMITS EVIDENCE OF A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS EXPERIENCE OR EMPLOY-
40 MENT IN THE PRACTICE OF ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TRAINING OR VISION
41 REHABILITATION THERAPY SATISFACTORY TO THE BOARD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH
42 THE COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS, WHETHER SUCH EXPERIENCE OR EMPLOYMENT
43 OCCURS WITHIN OR WITHOUT THIS STATE.

44 S 8808. SEPARABILITY. IF ANY SECTION OF THIS ARTICLE, OR PART THEREOF,
45 SHALL BE ADJUDGED BY ANY COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO BE INVALID,
46 SUCH JUDGMENT SHALL NOT AFFECT, IMPAIR OR INVALIDATE THE REMAINDER OF
47 ANY OTHER SECTION OR PART THEREOF.

48 S 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014. The commissioner of
49 education and the board of regents are authorized to promulgate such
50 rules and regulations and take any other measures as may be necessary
51 for the timely implementation of this act on or before its effective
52 date, including but not limited to the appointment of the state board
53 for vision rehabilitation services, the acceptance and processing of
54 applications for licensure, and the issuance of licenses.