

P. L. L., 1888, Art. 18, sec. 198. 1882, chs. 244 and 307.

293. Any person who shall have been engaged for four continuous months immediately before the first day of December, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, in business as a pharmacist and druggist, shall be entitled on and after said day to carry on such business under a new license similar to the one under which he had been acting just prior to said day; provided, he shall first file a petition with and to the clerk of said court, setting forth that he has been engaged for the time aforesaid in the business of a pharmacist and druggist, and praying for the issuing to him of a pharmacist and druggists' license; and the clerk shall forthwith issue to such petitioner, upon his paying the usual charges therefor and a fee of twenty-five cents to the clerk, a traders' license, and endorsed thereon, over his official signature, the words "Pharmacist and Druggists' License"; but if any other person shall desire to obtain from said clerk a license to conduct the business of a pharmacist and druggist, endorsed as aforesaid, after the first day of December, eighteen hundred and eighty-two, he shall first file with said clerk a petition addressed to one of the judges of the circuit court for said county, setting forth in what district of said county he proposes to engage in said business; that he is fitted by training and experience to conduct the same, and that he is not about engaging therein with a view to evade the provisions of this subtitle of this article; which said petition to the said judge shall be accompanied by a certificate, filed therewith, of twenty-four freeholders of said district, that they are well acquainted with said petitioner, and that they know him to be well fitted by training and experience to conduct such business, and that from their knowledge of his character they are satisfied that he will not abuse his license, if granted, to evade the provisions of this subtitle of this article; and upon such petition and certificate being filed, the said clerk shall give ten days' notice by two insertions in some newspaper published in said county, of such petition, the cost of which notice, together with all fees accrued under such petition, shall, before such publication, be paid by said petitioner, and if within said ten days no objection shall be filed to the issuing of such license, the said clerk shall at once issue the same, endorsed as aforesaid, upon the petitioner paying the usual license charges therefor; but if within the said ten days any objection is filed, either to the fitness of such petitioner by experience and training, to conduct such business, or to his character as a man fit to be trusted to conduct the same, the clerk shall forthwith lodge all the papers in said case with the judge to whom the petition is directed, or with some other judge of the circuit, if he, the judge addressed, from any cause cannot act, who shall appoint an early day for the hearing of the case, and shall direct the clerk to issue *subpoenas* for such witnesses as either petitioner or objector may desire, and shall hear and determine the case as to him shall seem right, and shall award to the successful party such costs in the case as may have arisen since the publication of the notice as aforesaid; and the clerk shall issue or withhold license according to the order of the judge; every petition filed under this section shall be verified by the oath of the petitioner taken