

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

As Engrossed: H3/4/19

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1251

5 By: Representatives Eubanks, Miller, Brown, Christiansen, D. Douglas, Evans, Holcomb, Jett, Lynch,
6 Petty, B. Smith, S. Smith, Vaught, Watson
7 By: Senators D. Wallace, Hester, Hill, Rapert
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PRACTICE OF
11 OPTOMETRY";
12
13

Subtitle

14
15 TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PRACTICE OF
16 OPTOMETRY"; AND TO MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE
17 OF OPTOMETRY.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-90-101(a)(3)(B), concerning the
23 definition of "practice of optometry", is amended to read as follows:

24 (B) All licensed optometrists are prohibited from using
25 ophthalmic lasers for surgical procedures except as permitted in subdivision
26 (a)(3)(D) of this section, performing cataract surgery, performing radial
27 keratotomy surgery, and selling prescription drugs.
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29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-90-101(a)(3), concerning the definition
30 of "practice of optometry", is amended to add an additional subdivision to
31 read as follows:

32 (D) The "practice of optometry" includes the following
33 procedures:

34 (i) Injections, excluding intravenous or intraocular
35 injections;

36 (ii) Incision and curettage of a chalazion;



1 (iii) Removal and biopsy of skin lesions with low
2 risk of malignancy, excluding lesions involving the lid margin or nasal to
3 the puncta;

4 (iv) Laser capsulotomy; and

5 (v) Laser trabeculoplasty.

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7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-90-204, concerning the powers and duties
8 of the State Board of Optometry, is amended to add an additional subdivision
9 to read as follows:

10 (9) To establish credentialing requirements for a licensee to
11 administer or perform procedures as listed in § 17-90-101(a)(3)(D).

12
13 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 90, Subchapter 2, is
14 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

15 17-90-206. Reporting requirements.

16 (a) The State Board of Optometry shall require every optometrist who
17 meets the requirements for certification to perform authorized laser
18 procedures to report to the board regarding the outcome of the procedures
19 performed in a format as required or directed by the board.

20 (b) Reports under subsection (a) of this section shall also be sent to
21 the Department of Health.

22 /s/Eubanks

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25 **APPROVED: 3/27/19**