

**House File 310 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 310  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 64)

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to the practice of optometry.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 154.1, subsection 3, Code 2019, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. a. An optometrist licensed under this chapter may  
4 employ all diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents for  
5 the purpose of diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the  
6 human eye and adnexa pursuant to this subsection, ~~excluding~~  
7 ~~the use of injections other than to counteract an anaphylactic~~  
8 ~~reaction,~~ and notwithstanding section 147.107, may without  
9 charge supply any of the above pharmaceuticals to commence a  
10 course of therapy. A licensed optometrist may perform minor  
11 surgical procedures and use medications for the diagnosis and  
12 treatment of diseases, disorders, and conditions of the eye and  
13 adnexa. A Notwithstanding paragraph "b", a license to practice  
14 optometry under this chapter does not authorize the performance  
15 of surgical procedures which require the use of injectable  
16 or general anesthesia, moderate sedation, penetration of the  
17 globe, or the use of ophthalmic lasers for the purpose of  
18 ophthalmic surgery within or upon the globe. The removal of  
19 pterygia and Salzmann's nodules, incisional corneal refractive  
20 surgery, and strabismus surgery are prohibited.

21 b. (1) A licensed optometrist may administer only the  
22 following injections:

23 (a) Sub-conjunctival injections for the medical treatment  
24 of the eye.

25 (b) Intra-lesional injections for the treatment of  
26 chalazia.

27 (c) Local anesthetic for the purpose of draining an eyelid  
28 abscess.

29 (d) Injections to counteract an anaphylactic reaction.

30 (2) An optometrist shall not administer any injection prior  
31 to receiving approval from the board.

32 (3) The board shall not approve the use of injections  
33 other than to counteract an anaphylactic reaction unless the  
34 optometrist demonstrates to the board sufficient educational  
35 or clinical training from a college or university accredited

1 by a regional or professional accreditation organization which  
2 is recognized or approved by the council for higher education  
3 accreditation or by the United States department of education  
4 or clinical training equivalent to clinical training offered  
5 by such an institution. A license granted to an applicant who  
6 graduated from an accredited school of optometry and who passed  
7 the injections skills examination of the national board of  
8 examiners in optometry examination on or after January 1, 2011  
9 shall constitute proof of sufficient educational or clinical  
10 training.

11 ~~b.~~ c. A licensed optometrist may employ and,  
12 notwithstanding section 147.107, supply pharmaceutical-  
13 delivering contact lenses for the purpose of treatment of  
14 conditions of the human eye and adnexa. For purposes of  
15 this paragraph, "*pharmaceutical-delivering contact lenses*"  
16 means contact lenses that contain one or more therapeutic  
17 pharmaceutical agents authorized for employment by [this section](#)  
18 for the purpose of treatment of conditions of the human eye and  
19 adnexa and that deliver such agents into the wearer's eye.

20 ~~e.~~ d. A licensed optometrist may prescribe oral steroids  
21 for a period not to exceed fourteen days without consultation  
22 with a physician.

23 ~~d.~~ e. A licensed optometrist may be authorized, where  
24 reasonable and appropriate, by rule of the board, to employ new  
25 diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents approved by  
26 the United States food and drug administration on or after July  
27 1, 2002, for the diagnosis and treatment of the human eye and  
28 adnexa.

29 ~~e.~~ f. The board is not required to adopt rules relating to  
30 topical pharmaceutical agents, oral antimicrobial agents, oral  
31 antihistamines, oral antiglaucoma agents, and oral analgesic  
32 agents. A licensed optometrist may remove superficial foreign  
33 bodies from the human eye and adnexa.

34 ~~f.~~ g. The therapeutic efforts of a licensed optometrist  
35 are intended for the purpose of examination, diagnosis, and

1 treatment of visual defects, abnormal conditions, and diseases  
2 of the human eye and adnexa, for proper optometric practice  
3 or referral for consultation or treatment to persons licensed  
4 under [chapter 148](#).

5 ~~g.~~ h. A licensed optometrist is an optometrist who is  
6 licensed to practice optometry in this state and who is  
7 certified by the board to use the agents and procedures  
8 authorized pursuant to [this subsection](#).

9

EXPLANATION

10           The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
11           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12       This bill relates to the practice of optometry. The bill  
13 allows optometrists to administer sub-conjunctival injections  
14 for the medical treatment of the eye, intra-lesional injections  
15 for the treatment of chalazia, local anesthetic for the purpose  
16 of draining an eyelid abscess, and injections to counteract an  
17 anaphylactic reaction. Current law prohibits an optometrist  
18 from administering injections other than to counter an  
19 anaphylactic reaction. The bill prohibits an optometrist from  
20 administering any injection prior to receiving approval from  
21 the board. The board shall not approve the use of injections  
22 by an optometrist, except for injections to counteract an  
23 anaphylactic reaction, unless the optometrist demonstrates  
24 sufficient educational or clinical training from or equivalent  
25 to an accredited college or university. The bill directs the  
26 board to accept a license to practice optometry issued to an  
27 applicant who graduated from an accredited school of optometry  
28 and who passed the injections skills portion of the national  
29 board of examiners in optometry examination on or after  
30 January 1, 2011, as proof of sufficient educational or clinical  
31 training.