

House Study Bill 64 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON KAUFMANN)

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 license to practice optometry under this chapter
14 does not authorize the performance of surgical procedures which
15 require the use of ~~injectable or~~ general anesthesia, moderate
16 sedation, penetration of the globe, or the use of ophthalmic
17 lasers for the purpose of ophthalmic surgery within or upon
18 the globe. The removal of pterygia and Salzmann's nodules,
19 incisional corneal refractive surgery, and strabismus surgery
20 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.