



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 504**

January Session, 2003

Substitute House Bill No. 6174

*House of Representatives, April 23, 2003*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. FELTMAN of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OR DISPENSING OF CONTACT LENSES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "contact lenses" means lenses that: (1) Have a spherical,  
3 cylindrical or prismatic power or curvature; (2) are made pursuant to a  
4 current prescription; and (3) are intended to be worn on the surface of  
5 the eye for vision correction or cosmetic purposes.

6 (b) No person or entity shall be authorized to sell, dispense or  
7 distribute contact lenses to a patient in this state unless one of the  
8 following has occurred: (1) The patient transmits or mails to such  
9 person or entity a valid prescription for contact lenses, or (2) a licensed  
10 optician, optometrist or ophthalmologist, having obtained written  
11 authorization from such patient, transmits orally, electronically or in  
12 writing, to such person or entity a copy of a valid prescription or a  
13 specification for contact lenses, or (3) a licensed optician, optometrist

14 or ophthalmologist, having obtained written authorization from such  
15 patient, verifies orally or in writing, a valid prescription or a  
16 specification for contact lenses to such person or entity.

17 (c) A licensed optician, optometrist or ophthalmologist, having  
18 obtained written authorization from such patient to verify a  
19 prescription or a specification for contact lenses, shall verify such  
20 prescription or specification not later than three business days from the  
21 date of the patient's written authorization. The verification of such  
22 prescription or specification shall include, but not be limited to, the  
23 following information: (1) The manufacturer, (2) base curve, (3)  
24 diameter, and (4) power of the contact lenses.

25 (d) A licensed optician, optometrist or ophthalmologist may not  
26 verify a prescription or specification, pursuant to subdivision (3) of  
27 subsection (b) of this section, if more than twenty-four months have  
28 elapsed from the date of issuance of such prescription or specification.

29 (e) All communications and correspondence received by persons or  
30 entities who sell, dispense or distribute contact lenses to patients in  
31 this state, shall be maintained for a period of three years from the date  
32 of receipt, and shall be subject to all state and federal confidentiality  
33 requirements.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

**PH**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Since provisions within this bill will not materially alter the regulatory responsibilities of the Departments of Consumer Protection or Public Health, no fiscal impact is anticipated to occur.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6174

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OR DISPENSING OF CONTACT LENSES***

**SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits a person or entity from selling, dispensing, or distributing contact lenses to patients in Connecticut unless: (1) the patients transmits or mails to the entity a valid contact lens prescription; (2) a licensed optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist transmits orally, electronically, or in writing a copy of a valid prescription or specification for contact lenses to the entity with the patient's written authorization; or (3) a licensed optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist verifies orally or in writing the valid prescription or specification for contact lenses upon the patient's written authorization.

Practitioners who receive the patient's written authorization to verify the prescription or a specification must verify it within three business days from the date of the patient's authorization. Verification must include information on (1) the manufacturer, (2) base curve, (3) diameter, and (4) power of the contact lenses. The bill prohibits an optician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist from verifying a prescription or specification if it was issued more than 24 months before.

All communications and correspondence received by entities selling, dispensing, or distributing the lenses must be kept for three years from the date of receipt and are subject to state and federal confidentiality requirements.

The bill defines "contact lenses" as lenses (1) having a spherical, cylindrical, or prismatic power or curvature; (2) made according to a current prescription; and (3) intended for wear on the eye surface for vision correction or cosmetic purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22    Nay 0