



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 6820

LCO No. 3810

03810_____PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING OPTOMETRY AND OPHTHALMOLOGY.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 20-127 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2005*):

4 (g) (1) [No] An optometrist [shall] may delegate to [any person] an
5 optometric assistant, optometric technician or appropriately trained
6 person the use [,] or application [or prescription] of any ocular agent-D
7 or ocular agent-T [except that] in accordance with section 20-138a, as
8 amended by this act, or an optometrist may cause the same to be self-
9 administered by a patient under the care and direction of the
10 optometrist.

11 (2) No optometrist shall delegate to any person the prescription of
12 any ocular agent-D or ocular agent-T.

13 Sec. 2. Section 20-138a of the general statutes is repealed and the
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

15 (a) No person shall engage in the practice of optometry in this state

16 unless such person has first obtained a license from the Department of
17 Public Health, but the provisions of this chapter shall not prevent a
18 licensed optometrist from delegating optometric services to either a
19 trained optometric assistant or to an optometric technician. Such
20 delegated services shall be performed only under the supervision,
21 control, and responsibility of the licensed optometrist, except that
22 [optometric assistants and optometric technicians shall not be
23 authorized to use prescription and or diagnostic drugs pursuant to this
24 chapter or chapter 417 nor shall] optometric assistants or optometric
25 technicians shall not be authorized to refract eyes, detect eye health,
26 prescribe spectacles, eyeglasses or contact lenses. A licensed
27 optometrist may delegate to an optometric assistant, optometric
28 technician or appropriately trained person the use and application of
29 any ocular agent-D or ocular agent-T, provided such delegated service
30 is performed only under the direct supervision, control and
31 responsibility of the licensed optometrist. Optometric services that
32 may be delegated to an optometric assistant or to an optometric
33 technician may be delegated to an optometric assistant trainee,
34 provided [that] such services are performed only under the direct
35 supervision, control and responsibility of the employing licensed
36 optometrist.

37 (b) Any person in violation of this section shall be fined not more
38 than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than five years or
39 both, for each offense. For purposes of this section each instance of
40 patient contact or consultation which is in violation of any provision of
41 this section shall constitute a separate offense. Failure to renew a
42 license in a timely manner shall not constitute a violation for the
43 purposes of this section.

44 [(b)] (c) For the purposes of this section: (1) "Optometric assistant"
45 means a person who has either completed two hundred hours of on-
46 the-job training, an affidavit in support of which shall be kept by the
47 employing optometrist on the premises, or graduated from a
48 vocational program in optometric technicianry; (2) "optometric

49 assistant trainee" means a person who has completed less than two
 50 hundred hours of on-the-job training and who is under the direct
 51 supervision, control and responsibility of an employing, licensed
 52 optometrist when performing optometric services which may be
 53 delegated to optometric assistants and to optometric technicians; (3)
 54 "optometric technician" means a person who has either completed a
 55 two-year college program in optometric technicianry, or passed the
 56 national optometric technician registration examination given by The
 57 American Optometric Association; and (4) "appropriately trained
 58 person" means a person who has completed ___ hours of on-the-job
 59 training in the use and application of ocular agents-D and ocular
 60 agents-T under the direct supervision, control and responsibility of an
 61 employing, licensed optometrist, an affidavit in support of which shall
 62 be kept by the employing optometrist on the premises.

63 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) A physician licensed
 64 pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, who specializes in
 65 ophthalmology, may delegate to an appropriately trained
 66 ophthalmologic medical assistant the use or application of any ocular
 67 agent-D or ocular agent-T, provided such delegated service is
 68 performed only under the direct supervision, control and
 69 responsibility of the licensed physician. For purposes of this section,
 70 "appropriately trained ophthalmologic medical assistant" means an
 71 ophthalmologic medical assistant who has completed ___ hours of
 72 on-the-job training in the use and application of ocular agents-D and
 73 ocular agents-T under the direct supervision, control and
 74 responsibility of an employing, licensed physician, an affidavit in
 75 support of which shall be kept by the employing physician on the
 76 premises.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	20-127(g)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	20-138a
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow an optometrist or ophthalmologist to delegate to an appropriately trained person the use and application of ocular agent-D or ocular agent-T, provided such person is under the direct supervision and control of the optometrist or ophthalmologist.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]