



House of Representatives

File No. 579

General Assembly

February Session, 2008 **(Reprint of File No. 405)**

House Bill No. 5811
As Amended by House Amendment Schedule
"A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 10, 2008

AN ACT CONCERNING THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 20-127 of the 2008 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008*):

4 (f) [No] Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, no licensed
5 optometrist authorized pursuant to this section to practice advanced
6 optometric care shall dispense controlled substances under schedules
7 II, III, IV and V or under section 21a-252, to any person unless no
8 charge is imposed for such substances and the quantity dispensed does
9 not exceed a seventy-two-hour supply, except if the minimum
10 available quantity for [said agent] such substances is greater than a
11 seventy-two-hour supply, the optometrist may dispense the minimum
12 available quantity. A licensed optometrist authorized pursuant to this
13 section to practice advanced optometric care may acquire, prescribe,
14 dispense and charge for contact lenses that provide vision correction
15 and contain a therapeutic drug agent approved by the federal Food

16 and Drug Administration.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	20-127(f)

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Enactment of this bill will result in no fiscal impact.

House "A" makes changes that have no associated fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5811 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THERAPEUTIC CONTACT LENSES.*****SUMMARY:**

The law permits any optometrist to dispense contact lenses. This bill permits advanced practice optometrists to acquire, prescribe, dispense, and charge for prescription contact lenses that contain a federal Food and Drug Administration-approved therapeutic drug. It grants this authority as an exception to the current law that permits such optometrists to dispense schedule II to IV controlled substances only if they do not charge for them or dispense more than a 72-hour supply, unless the minimum quantity available is greater, in which case they can dispense that minimum.

*House Amendment "A" permits advanced practice optometrists to charge for these contact lenses and clearly makes their authority to dispense them an exception to the limits on dispensing controlled substances.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

BACKGROUND***Advanced Practice Optometrists***

Advanced practice optometrists must successfully complete at least 75 classroom hours and 51 clinical hours of study in advanced optometric care at an accredited optometry or medical school and pass an examination administered by an accredited school. This training must include treatment of eye deficiencies, deformities, diseases, or abnormalities, including anterior segment disease, lacrimology

(secretion and conduction of tears), and glaucoma. And they must meet the requirements to acquire and use ocular agents-D and to acquire, administer, dispense, and prescribe ocular agents-T (CGS § 20-127(d)).

Controlled Substances

Controlled substances are grouped in schedules I through V, according to their decreasing tendency to promote abuse or dependency. Schedule I substances are the most strictly controlled because of their high potential for abuse. State and federal laws authorize prescribing drugs on schedules II through V; most schedule I drugs do not have any approved medical use.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 30 Nay 0 (03/17/2008)