



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Committee Bill No. 6012

LCO No. 5148



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Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTION IN EYE CARE.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2017*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Contact lens" means any lens placed directly on the surface of
4 the eye, regardless of whether or not the lens is intended to correct a
5 visual defect, including, but not limited to, any cosmetic, therapeutic
6 or corrective lens;

7 (2) "Eye examination" means a physical assessment of the ocular
8 health and visual status of a patient that may include, but does not
9 consist solely of, objective refractive data or information generated by
10 an automated testing device, including, but not limited to, a remote
11 refractive device, in order to establish a medical diagnosis or for the
12 correction of vision disorders;

13 (3) "In-person evaluation" means a patient evaluation conducted by
14 a provider who is at the same physical location as the location of the
15 patient;

16 (4) "Prescription" means a provider's handwritten or electronic
17 order for contact lenses based on an eye examination;

18 (5) "Provider" means an optometrist licensed pursuant to chapter
19 380 of the general statutes or a physician licensed pursuant to chapter
20 370 of the general statutes who specializes in ophthalmology; and

21 (6) "Remote refractive device" means automated equipment or an
22 application designed to be used on a telephone, computer or Internet-
23 based device that can be used either in person or remotely to conduct a
24 test to determine the refractive status of the eyes.

25 (b) A provider may not use the data or information obtained from
26 the administration of a test using a remote refractive device as the sole
27 basis for issuing a new prescription for contact lenses. No provider
28 shall issue a new prescription for contact lenses to a patient without
29 having performed an in-person evaluation and an eye examination of
30 the patient.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2017	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To protect consumers from dubious technology that can compromise well-accepted standards of care and place a patient's health at risk.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.; REP. ORANGE, 48th Dist.
REP. PETIT, 22nd Dist.; REP. CANDELORA, 86th Dist.
REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA, 105th Dist.

H.B. 6012