
HOUSE BILL 2032

State of Washington 55th Legislature 1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Backlund, Dyer and Zellinsky

Read first time 02/18/97. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the practice of optometry; and amending RCW
2 18.53.010.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.53.010 and 1989 c 36 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The practice of optometry is defined as the examination of the
7 human eye, the examination and ascertaining any defects of the human
8 vision system and the analysis of the process of vision. The practice
9 of optometry may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the
10 following:

11 (a) The employment of any objective or subjective means or method
12 including the use of drugs topically applied to the eye for diagnostic
13 and therapeutic purposes by those licensed under this chapter and who
14 meet the requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section, and
15 the use of any diagnostic instruments or devices for the examination or
16 analysis of the human vision system, the measurement of the powers or
17 range of human vision, or the determination of the refractive powers of
18 the human eye or its functions in general; and

1 (b) The prescription and fitting of lenses, prisms, therapeutic or
2 refractive contact lenses and the adaption or adjustment of frames and
3 lenses used in connection therewith; and

4 (c) The prescription and provision of visual therapy, therapeutic
5 aids and other optical devices, and the treatment with topically
6 applied drugs by those licensed under this chapter and who meet the
7 requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section; and

8 (d) The ascertainment of the perceptive, neural, muscular or
9 pathological condition of the visual system; and

10 (e) The adaptation of prosthetic eyes.

11 (2) Those persons using drugs for diagnostic purposes in the
12 practice of optometry shall have a minimum of sixty hours of didactic
13 and clinical instruction in general and ocular pharmacology as applied
14 to optometry, and for therapeutic purposes, an additional minimum of
15 seventy-five hours of didactic and clinical instruction as established
16 by the board, and certification from an institution of higher learning,
17 accredited by those agencies recognized by the United States office of
18 education or the council on postsecondary accreditation to qualify for
19 certification by the optometry board of Washington to use drugs for
20 diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. Such course or courses shall be
21 the fiscal responsibility of the participating and attending
22 optometrist.

23 (3) The board shall establish a schedule of drugs for diagnostic
24 and treatment purposes limited to the practice of optometry, and no
25 person licensed pursuant to this chapter shall prescribe, dispense,
26 purchase, possess, or administer drugs except as authorized and to the
27 extent permitted by the board.

28 (4) The board shall develop a means of identification and
29 verification of optometrists certified to use therapeutic drugs for the
30 purpose of issuing prescriptions as authorized by this section.

31 (5) Optometry is and has been a nonsurgical specialty practice.
32 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as authorizing optometrists
33 to perform any surgery, surgical procedure, or use any surgical means,
34 including without limitation, piercing, revision, destruction,
35 incision, removing, penetrating, or structural alteration to human skin
36 or tissue by the use of instruments, mechanical means, laser, ionizing
37 radiation, or any other existing or future technology.

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