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SENATE BILL 6078

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice and Hale

Read first time 03/15/97. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to the definition of the practice of optometry; and  
2 amending RCW 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 or procedure included in the curricula of recognized schools of  
13 optometry as approved by the board of optometry, including the use of  
14 drugs topically applied to the eye for diagnostic and therapeutic  
15 purposes by those licensed under this chapter and who meet the  
16 requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section, and the use of  
17 any diagnostic instruments or devices for the examination or analysis  
18 of the human vision system, the measurement of the powers or range of

1 human vision, or the determination of the refractive powers of the  
2 human eye or its functions in general; and

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

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

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

12 (e) The adaptation of prosthetic eyes.

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

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

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

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