

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 62

SESSION: 2003 Regular Session

TOPIC: Amended prescribing authority for optometrists

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Overview

This bill extends the prescribing authority of optometrists to include legend drugs in addition to topical drugs. Optometrists would also be allowed to prescribe certain scheduled controlled substances in specified diagnostic and treatment situations relating to areas studied in schools of optometry.

Section

- 1** **Reporting requirement amended.** Reference to “topical legend drug” changed to “legend drug” in context of requirement that physicians report adverse reactions resulting from optometrists’ provision of such drugs.
- 2** **Pharmacists’ sales to optometrists.** Includes schedules of controlled substances in category of drugs optometrists permitted to acquire, administer or prescribe when expressly authorized by statute. Also eliminates restriction of optometrists’ authority to topical legend drugs.
- 3** **Certification requirement amended.** Amends requirement that optometrist be board certified to use “topical legend drugs” to require certification for “legend drugs.”
- 4** **Definition amended.** Amends the definition of a board certified optometrist by changing references to required study of use of “topical legend drugs” to “legend drugs.”
- 5** **Prescribing authority.** Changes prescribing authority of optometrist from “topical legend drugs” to “legend drugs.” States that prescribing authority granted does not allow administration of legend drugs intravenously, intramuscularly, or by injection. Specifies that invasive surgery is not permitted. Also states that prescribing authority does not include schedule II or legend drugs or oral steroids, oral antivirals for more than 10 days, or oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors for more than seven days.
- 6** **Standard of care.** Amends optometrists’ standard of care to reference “legend drugs” rather than “drugs.”

Section

- 7** **Complaint reports.** Amends requirement of complaint report from board of pharmacy to board of optometry to include complaints received regarding “legend drugs” rather than “topical legend drugs.”
- 8** **Prescription requirements.** Adds doctor of optometry to list of persons authorized to prescribe schedule III or IV controlled substances, but limits the authority in the case of optometrists to schedule IV only.
- 9** **Prescribing authority.** Permits a licensed doctor of optometry to prescribe, administer or dispense schedules IV and V controlled substances.
- 10** **Sale of controlled substances permitted.** Adds licensed doctor of optometry to the list of persons who may buy or possess schedule IV and V controlled substances.