

SENATE BILL No. 291

By Committee on Assessment and Taxation

3-6

1 AN ACT concerning health professions and practices; relating to
2 optometry; modifying certain provisions of the optometry law related to
3 scope of practice, definitions and credentialing requirements; amending
4 K.S.A. 65-1501, 65-1509a, 65-1512, 65-1523 and 74-1504 and K.S.A.
5 2024 Supp. 65-1501a and 65-1505 and repealing the existing sections;
6 also repealing K.S.A. 65-1514 and 74-1505.

7
8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. K.S.A. 65-1501 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-
10 1501. (a) The practice of optometry means:

11 (1) The examination of the human eye and its ~~adnexae~~ *adnexa* and
12 the employment of objective or subjective means or methods, (including
13 the administering, prescribing or dispensing, of ~~topical~~ pharmaceutical
14 drugs), for the purpose of diagnosing the refractive, muscular, or
15 pathological condition thereof;

16 (2) *the use of medical devices* and the prescribing, dispensing or
17 adapting of lenses, (including any ophthalmic lenses ~~which~~ *that* are
18 classified as drugs by any law of the United States or of this state), prisms,
19 low vision rehabilitation services, orthoptic exercises and visual training
20 therapy for the relief of any insufficiencies or abnormal conditions of the
21 human eye and its ~~adnexae~~ *adnexa*; ~~and~~

22 (3) *the use of medical devices* and the prescribing, administering or
23 dispensing of ~~topical~~ pharmaceutical drugs ~~and oral drugs~~ *through all*
24 *routes of administration, except intraocular injections,* for the
25 examination, diagnosis and treatment of ocular conditions and any
26 insufficiencies or abnormal conditions of the human eye and its ~~adnexae~~
27 ~~including adult open angle glaucoma~~ *adnexa*;

28 (4) *the removal of non - perforating foreign bodies from the cornea,*
29 *conjunctiva or eyelids, removal of eyelashes, scraping the cornea for*
30 *diagnostic tests, smears or cultures, the dilation, probing, irrigation or*
31 *closing the tear drainage structure of the eye, expression of conjunctival*
32 *follicles or cysts, debridement of the corneal epithelium, incision and*
33 *curettage of a chalazion, removal and biopsy of skin lesions without*
34 *known malignancy, laser capsulotomy, laser trabeculoplasty and laser*
35 *peripheral iridotomy; and*

36 (5) *the performance of additional procedures that are not otherwise*

1 *prohibited by subsection (b) that are within the scope of a licensee's*
2 *education and training for the treatment of any insufficiencies or*
3 *abnormal conditions of the human eye and its adnexa as authorized*
4 *pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board.*

5 (b) The practice of optometry shall not include *the performance of*
6 *the following procedures:* ~~(1) The management and treatment of glaucoma,~~
7 ~~except as provided in subsection (a); (2) the performance of surgery,~~
8 ~~including the use of lasers for surgical purposes, except that licensees may~~
9 ~~remove non-perforating foreign bodies from the cornea, conjunctiva or~~
10 ~~eyelids; remove eyelashes; scrape the cornea for diagnostic tests, smears or~~
11 ~~cultures; dilate, probe, irrigate or close by punctal plug the tear drainage~~
12 ~~structures of the eye; express conjunctival follicles or cysts; debridement~~
13 ~~of the corneal epithelium and co-management of post-operative care; or~~
14 ~~(3) the performance of procedures requiring anesthesia administered by~~
15 ~~injection or general anesthesia~~ *Retinal surgery, penetrating keratoplasty or*
16 *corneal transplant, administration of or surgery performed under general*
17 *anesthesia, surgery related to the removal of the eye from a living human*
18 *being, surgical extraction of the crystalline lens, surgical intraocular*
19 *implants, incisional or excisional surgery of the extraocular muscles,*
20 *surgery of the bony orbit, laser - assisted in situ keratomileusis or*
21 *photorefractive keratectomy, YAG laser vitreolysis, and surgery of the*
22 *eyelid for cosmetic or mechanical repair of blepharochalasis, ptosis and*
23 *tarsorrhaphy. However, an optometrist may provide pre-operative and*
24 *post-operative care for the procedures in this subsection.*

25 (c) A licensee shall be held to a standard of care in the diagnosis and
26 treatment of adult open-angle glaucoma ~~commensurate to~~ *with* that of a
27 person licensed to practice medicine and surgery, who exercises that
28 degree of skill and proficiency commonly exercised by an ordinary,
29 skillful, careful and prudent person licensed to practice medicine and
30 surgery.

31 (d) Under the direction and supervision of a licensee, a licensed
32 professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, licensed physical therapist and
33 licensed occupational therapist may assist in the provision of low vision
34 rehabilitation services in addition to such other services ~~which~~ *that* such
35 licensed professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, licensed physical
36 therapist and licensed occupational therapist is authorized by law to
37 provide under ~~subsection (d) of K.S.A. 65-1113(d), subsection (h) of~~
38 ~~K.S.A. 65-1124(h), subsection (b) of K.S.A. 65-2901(b) and subsection (b)~~
39 ~~of K.S.A. 65-5402(b), and amendments thereto.~~

40 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 65-1501a is hereby amended to read as
41 follows: 65-1501a. ~~For the purposes of this act the following terms shall~~
42 ~~have the meanings respectively ascribed to them~~ *As used in the optometry*
43 *law, unless the context requires otherwise:*

1 (a) "Board" means the board of examiners in optometry established
2 under K.S.A. 74-1501, and amendments thereto.

3 (b) "License" means a license to practice optometry granted under the
4 optometry law.

5 (c) "Licensee" means a person licensed under the optometry law to
6 practice optometry.

7 (d) "Adapt" means the determination, selection, fitting or use of
8 lenses, prisms, orthoptic exercises or visual training therapy *or the*
9 *modification of lenses using light or other means* for the aid of any
10 insufficiencies or abnormal conditions of the eyes after or by examination
11 or testing.

12 (e) "Lenses" means any type of ophthalmic lenses, which are lenses
13 prescribed or used for the aid of any insufficiencies or abnormal conditions
14 of the eyes.

15 (f) "Prescription" means a verbal, written or electronic order
16 transmitted directly or by electronic means from a licensee giving or
17 containing the name and address of the prescriber, the license registration
18 number of the licensee, the name and address of the patient, the
19 specifications and directions for lenses, prisms, orthoptic exercises, low
20 vision rehabilitation services or visual training therapy to be used for the
21 aid of any insufficiencies or abnormal conditions of the eyes, including
22 instructions necessary for the fabrication or use thereof and the date of
23 issue.

24 (g) "Prescription for ~~topical pharmaceutical drugs or oral drugs~~"
25 means a verbal, written or electronic order transmitted directly or by
26 electronic means from a licensee giving or containing the name and
27 address of the prescriber, the license registration number of the licensee,
28 the name and address of the patient, the name and quantity of the drug
29 prescribed, directions for use, the number of refills permitted, the date of
30 issue and expiration date.

31 (h) ~~"Topical pharmaceutical drugs" means drugs administered~~
32 ~~topically and not by other means.~~

33 (i) "Dispense" means to deliver prescription-only medication or
34 ophthalmic lenses to the ultimate user pursuant to the lawful prescription
35 of a licensee and dispensing of prescription-only medication by a licensee
36 shall be limited to a ~~twenty-four hour~~ 24-hour supply or minimal quantity
37 necessary until a prescription can be filled by a licensed pharmacist,
38 except that the ~~twenty-four hour~~ 24-hour supply or minimal quantity shall
39 not apply to lenses described in ~~subsection (a)(2) of K.S.A. 65-1501(a)(2),~~
40 and amendments thereto.

41 (j)(i) "False advertisement" means any advertisement ~~which~~ that is
42 false, misleading or deceptive in a material respect. In determining
43 whether any advertisement is misleading, there shall be taken into account

1 not only representations made or suggested by statement, word, design,
2 device, sound or any combination thereof, but also the extent to which the
3 advertisement fails to reveal facts material in the light of such
4 representations made.

5 ~~(k)~~(j) "Advertisement" means all representations disseminated in any
6 manner or by any means; for the purpose of inducing, or ~~which~~ that are
7 likely to induce, directly or indirectly, the purchase of professional services
8 or ophthalmic goods.

9 ~~(h)~~(k) "~~Health care~~Healthcare provider" ~~shall have the meaning~~
10 ~~ascribed to that term~~ means the same as defined in subsection (f) of K.S.A.
11 40-3401(f), and amendments thereto.

12 ~~(m)~~(l) "Medical facility" ~~shall have the meaning ascribed to that term~~
13 ~~means the same as defined in subsection (e) of K.S.A. 65-411(c), and~~
14 amendments thereto.

15 ~~(n)~~(m) "Medical care facility" ~~shall have the meaning ascribed to that~~
16 ~~term~~ means the same as defined in K.S.A. 65-425, and amendments
17 thereto.

18 ~~(o)~~(n) "Ophthalmologist" means a person licensed to practice
19 medicine and surgery by the state board of healing arts who specializes in
20 the diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment of diseases and defects of
21 the human eye and related structures.

22 ~~(p)~~(o) "Low vision rehabilitation services" means the evaluation,
23 diagnosis, management and care of the low vision patient including low
24 vision rehabilitation therapy, education and interdisciplinary consultation
25 under the direction and supervision of an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

26 ~~(q)~~ "Oral drugs" means oral antibacterial drugs, oral antiviral drugs,
27 oral antihistamines, oral analgesic drugs, oral steroids, oral antiglaucoma
28 drugs and other oral drugs with clinically accepted ocular uses.

29 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 65-1505 is hereby amended to read as
30 follows: 65-1505. (a) Persons entitled to practice optometry in Kansas
31 shall be those persons licensed in accordance with the provisions of the
32 optometry law. A person shall be qualified to be licensed and ~~to~~ receive a
33 license as an optometrist: (1) Who is of good moral character; and in
34 determining the moral character of any such person, the board may take
35 into consideration any felony conviction of such person, but such
36 conviction shall not automatically operate as a bar to licensure; (2) who
37 has graduated from a school or college of optometry approved by the
38 board; and (3) who successfully meets and completes the requirements set
39 by the board and passes an examination given by the board.

40 (b) All applicants for licensure, in addition to successfully completing
41 all other requirements for licensure, shall submit evidence satisfactory to
42 the board of professional liability insurance in an amount acceptable to the
43 board.

1 (c) Any person applying for examination by the board shall fill out
2 and swear to an application furnished by the board, accompanied by a fee
3 fixed by the board by rules and regulations in an amount of not to exceed
4 \$450, and file the same with the secretary of the board at least 30 days
5 prior to the holding of the examination. At such examinations the board
6 shall examine each applicant in subjects taught in schools or colleges of
7 optometry approved by the board, as may be required by the board. If such
8 person complies with the other qualifications for licensing and passes such
9 examination, such person shall receive from the board, upon the payment
10 of a fee fixed by the board by rules and regulations in an amount of not to
11 exceed \$150, a license entitling such person to practice optometry. In the
12 event of the failure on the part of the applicant to pass the first
13 examination, such person may, with the consent of the board, within 18
14 months, by filing an application accompanied by a fee fixed by the board
15 by rules and regulations in an amount of not to exceed \$150, take a second
16 examination; for the third and each subsequent examination a fee fixed by
17 the board by rules and regulations in an amount of not to exceed \$150.
18 Any examination fee and license fee fixed by the board under this
19 subsection ~~which~~ *that* is in effect on the day preceding the effective date of
20 this act shall continue in effect until the board adopts rules and regulations
21 under this subsection fixing a different fee therefor.

22 (d) Any applicant for reciprocal licensure may in the board's
23 discretion be licensed and issued a license without examination if the
24 applicant has been in the active practice of optometry in another state for
25 at least the three-year period immediately preceding the application for
26 reciprocal licensure and the applicant:

27 (1) Presents a certified copy of a certificate of registration or license
28 ~~which~~ *that* has been issued to the applicant by another state where the
29 requirements for licensure are deemed by the board to be equivalent to the
30 requirements for licensure under this act, if such state accords a like
31 privilege to holders of a license issued by the board;

32 (2) submits a sworn statement of the licensing authority of such other
33 state that the applicant's license has never been limited, suspended or
34 revoked and that the applicant has never been censured or had other
35 disciplinary action taken;

36 (3) successfully passes an examination of Kansas law administered
37 by the board and such clinical practice examination as the board deems
38 necessary; and

39 (4) pays the reciprocal license fixed by the board by rules and
40 regulations in an amount of not to exceed \$450. The reciprocal license fee
41 fixed by the board under this subsection ~~which~~ *that* is in effect on the day
42 preceding the effective date of this act shall continue in effect until the
43 board adopts rules and regulations under this subsection fixing a different

1 fee therefor.

2 (e) The board shall adopt rules and regulations establishing the
3 criteria ~~which~~ that a school or college of optometry shall satisfy in meeting
4 the requirement of approval by the board established under subsection (a).
5 The board may send a questionnaire developed by the board to any school
6 or college of optometry for which the board does not have sufficient
7 information to determine whether the school or college meets the
8 requirements for approval and rules and regulations adopted under this act.
9 The questionnaire providing the necessary information shall be completed
10 and returned to the board in order for the school or college to be
11 considered for approval. The board may contract with investigative
12 agencies, commissions or consultants to assist the board in obtaining
13 information about schools or colleges. In entering such contracts the
14 authority to approve schools or colleges shall remain solely with the board.

15 (f) (1) The board may require an applicant for licensure or a licensee
16 in connection with an investigation of the licensee to be fingerprinted and
17 submit to a state and national criminal history record check in accordance
18 with K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 22-4714, and amendments thereto.

19 (2) (A) The board shall fix a fee for fingerprinting applicants or
20 licensees in an amount necessary to reimburse the board for the cost of the
21 fingerprinting. Fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited in
22 the criminal history and fingerprinting fund.

23 (B) There is hereby created in the state treasury the criminal history
24 and fingerprinting fund. All moneys credited to the fund shall be used to
25 pay all costs and fees associated with processing of fingerprints and
26 criminal history checks for the board of examiners in optometry. The fund
27 shall be administered by the board. All expenditures from the fund shall be
28 made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director
29 of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the
30 president of the board or a person designated by the president.

31 (g) *Any licensee applying for credentialing by the board shall*
32 *complete and swear to an application form furnished by the board*
33 *accompanied by an additional fee fixed by the board by rules and*
34 *regulations in an amount necessary to reimburse the board for the cost of*
35 *credentialing.*

36 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 65-1509a is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-
37 1509a. (a) In addition to the payment of the license renewal fee, each
38 licensee applying for license renewal shall furnish to the secretary of the
39 board satisfactory evidence of successfully completing a minimum of 24
40 hours of continuing education annually, five hours of which shall relate to
41 ocular pharmacology, therapeutics or related topics of study, approved by
42 the board in the year ~~just~~ preceding such application for the renewal of the
43 license. The board, in its discretion, may increase the required hours of

1 continuing education by rules and regulations adopted by the board. On or
2 before April 1 of each year, the secretary of the board shall send a written
3 notice of continuing education requirements to this effect to every person
4 holding a valid license to practice optometry within the state as provided
5 in ~~subsection (a)~~ of K.S.A. 65-1509(a), and amendments thereto.

6 (b) *The board shall establish credentialing requirements for a*
7 *licensee to administer or perform the procedures described in K.S.A. 65-*
8 *1501(a)(4), and amendments thereto.*

9 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 65-1512 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-
10 1512. ~~This act~~ *The provisions of article 15 of chapter 65 of the Kansas*
11 *Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be*
12 *cited as the optometry law.*

13 Sec. 6. K.S.A. 65-1523 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-
14 1523. The board in its discretion, in addition to any other remedies
15 provided in this act, may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for
16 injunctive relief *against any person* to restrain violations of the provisions
17 of this act; *and the* lawful rules and regulations promulgated by the board
18 under authority of this act.

19 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 74-1504 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-
20 1504. (a) The board shall administer and enforce the provisions of the
21 optometry law, and the board is hereby granted such specific powers as are
22 necessary for the purpose of administering and enforcing such law. In
23 addition, the board may:

24 (1) Employ agents, attorneys and inspectors under such rules and
25 regulations as the board may prescribe in accordance with the provisions
26 of the optometry law, except that no state officer shall be eligible for
27 employment by the board.

28 (2) Make all necessary disbursements; to carry out the provisions of
29 this act, including payment for stationery supplies, ~~acquire and acquiring~~
30 all necessary optical instruments to be used in the conducting of
31 examination, ~~print and distribute to all optometrists in the state a yearbook~~
32 ~~of the names and addresses of all optometrists licensed by the board~~
33 *maintain and make available to the public a directory including the names*
34 *and addresses of all optometrists licensed by the board.*

35 (3) Grant all licenses as seem just and proper and to suspend, limit,
36 revoke or refuse to renew any such licenses granted for any of the causes
37 specified under K.S.A. 65-1506, and amendments thereto.

38 (4) Administer oaths and take testimony upon granting or refusing to
39 grant, revoking, limiting or suspending licenses.

40 (5) Issue subpoenas, compel the attendance of witnesses and the
41 production of any papers, books, accounts, documents and testimony, and
42 to cause the deposition of witnesses, either residing within or without the
43 state, to be taken in the manner prescribed by law for taking depositions in

1 civil actions in the district courts. In case of disobedience on the part of
2 any person to comply with any subpoena issued in behalf of the board, or
3 on the refusal of any witness to testify to any matters regarding which such
4 witness may be lawfully interrogated, the judge of the district court of any
5 county, on application of a member of the board, may compel obedience
6 by proceedings for contempt, as in the case of disobedience of the
7 requirements of a subpoena issued from such court or a refusal to testify in
8 such court. Each witness who appears before the board by the board's
9 order or subpoena, other than a state officer or employee, shall receive for
10 attendance the fees and mileage provided for witnesses in civil cases in
11 courts of record, which shall be audited and paid upon the presentation of
12 proper vouchers sworn to by such witnesses and approved by the president
13 and secretary-treasurer of the board.

14 (6) Adopt rules and regulations for the procedure and conduct of the
15 board and for the administration of the optometry law, ~~which rules and~~
16 ~~regulations shall that are not be inconsistent~~ consistent with the provisions
17 of the optometry law.

18 (b) The board shall meet at least annually for the purpose of
19 examining applicants for licensure. ~~Such meetings shall be held in Topeka.~~
20 At least 30 days prior to the examination, the board shall cause a special
21 notice to be published in the Kansas register stating the date and hour for
22 holding such examination. Special meetings shall be held at such times
23 and places as the board may direct.

24 (c) The board shall preserve an accurate record of all meetings and
25 proceedings of the board, including receipts and disbursements with
26 vouchers therefor and complete minutes of all prosecutions and violations
27 of the optometry law and of examinations held under the provisions of the
28 optometry law and an accurate inventory of all property of the board. All
29 such records shall be kept in the office of the board and made accessible to
30 the public.

31 Sec. 8. K.S.A. 65-1501, 65-1509a, 65-1512, 65-1514, 65-1523, 74-
32 1504 and 74-1505 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 65-1501a and 65-1505 are
33 hereby repealed.

34 Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
35 publication in the statute book.