

(House Bill 933)

AN ACT concerning

Optometry - Freedom of Choice

FOR the purpose of providing that State and local governmental entities and agencies may not interfere with the public's complete freedom of choice in selection of duly-licensed ocular practitioners with respect to services rendered within the scope of optometry as defined by State law and providing that optometrists' reports shall be honored by State and local governmental entities and agencies and providing an exception to the provisions of this Act.

BY adding to

Article 43 - Health
 Section 385A
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1971 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 385A be and it is hereby added to Article 43 - Health, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 43 - Health

385A.

NO STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL BOARD, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, DEPARTMENT, OR OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY, INCLUDING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, CREATED OR EXISTING BY LAW, MAY, IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY INTERFERE WITH THE PUBLIC'S COMPLETE FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN SELECTION OF DULY-LICENSED OCULAR PRACTITIONERS WITH RESPECT TO SERVICES RENDERED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF OPTOMETRY AS DEFINED BY STATE LAW. THE DELIVERY OF OPTOMETRIC SERVICES AS DEFINED BY STATE LAW TO THE EMPLOYEES OF ANY STATE, COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, OR ANY UNIT THEREOF, BY A DULY LICENSED OCULAR PRACTITIONER THROUGH ANY AGREEMENT, CONTRACTUAL OR OTHERWISE, IS NOT A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

ALL STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AUTHORITIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND OTHER