

~~tests; authorizing certain optometrists to administer or prescribe certain steroids under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board of Examiners in Optometry to approve certain continuing education courses by a certain date; requiring the Board to grant a waiver of certain requirements under this Act to certain individuals until a certain date; requiring the Board to certify certain optometrists; requiring the Board to adopt a certain practice protocol in consultation with and subject to the approval of the State Board of Physicians by a certain date; requiring the Board to report to certain committees of the General Assembly by a certain date; and generally relating to the State Board of Examiners in Optometry.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 11-404.1 and 11-404.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health Occupations

11-404.1.

(a) Unless certified under this section, a licensed optometrist may not administer or prescribe any therapeutic pharmaceutical agents or remove superficial foreign bodies from a human eye, adnexa, or lacrimal system.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Board shall certify a licensed optometrist as a therapeutically certified optometrist if the licensed optometrist submits to the Board evidence satisfactory to the Board that the licensed optometrist:

(i) Has successfully completed at least 110 hours of a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents course approved by the Board;

(ii) Has successfully passed a pharmacology examination relating to the treatment and management of ocular disease, which is prepared, administered, and graded by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry or any other nationally recognized optometric organization as approved by the Secretary; [and]

(iii) Is currently certified by the Board to administer topical ocular diagnostic pharmaceutical agents under § 11-404 of this subtitle; AND

(IV) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ~~A 24-HOUR AN 8-HOUR COURSE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF TOPICAL PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS AND THE REMOVAL OF RESIDUAL PARTICULATE MATTER THROUGH THE USE OF AN ALGER BRUSH STEROIDS~~ APPROVED BY THE BOARD.