

~~11-404.1~~ 11-404.1(b)(1)(iv) of the Health Occupations Article to any individual who is currently a therapeutically certified optometrist until July 1, 2006.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of Examiners in Optometry shall certify a licensed optometrist as a therapeutically certified optometrist prior to the license renewal date if the optometrist completes the requirements of § 11-404.1 of the Health Occupations Article, as enacted by this Act, prior to the license renewal date, by November 30, 2005, the State Board of Examiners in Optometry, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the State Board of Physicians, shall adopt a collaborative practice protocol for the administration and prescription of topical steroids by therapeutically certified optometrists under § 11-404.2 of the Health Occupations Article as enacted by this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of Examiners in Optometry and the State Board of Physicians shall each report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee by June 1, 2008, on issues related to the practice of optometry under this Act. Each report shall suggest changes to §§ 11-404.1 and 11-404.2 of the Health Occupations Article to improve the quality of and access to care or to enhance the scope of practice of optometry in the State.

~~SECTION 5.~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

May 20, 2005

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 478 – *Election Law – Early Voting*.

Senate Bill 478 requires the local boards of elections to establish early voting polling places for a five-day period beginning eight days prior to Election Day and have them in operation for eight hours each day. Under this program, a voter may cast a ballot at any early voting location in the voter's county of residence. On early voting days, the local boards of elections are responsible for ensuring that every ballot style used in the county for the election is available at the early polling places.

Maryland has a national reputation as a state with a rich history of voter fraud. Over the years, the General Assembly has carefully crafted an election process that includes numerous safeguards to protect against voter irregularities. We require most voters to personally appear at their own election precinct on a single day, Election Day. On that day, we appoint representatives of the political parties as election judges to conduct the balloting process at the polls. We also allow representatives of political