

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 256

AN ACT concerning

Optometrists – Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Scope of Practice

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Examiners in Optometry (Board) to maintain a list of certain information; authorizing the Board to set reasonable fees for the issuance and renewal of certain certificates; requiring the Board to establish certain continuing education requirements; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish a certain quality assurance program and adopt certain regulations; requiring optometrists to refer patients to certain health care providers under certain circumstances; authorizing the use of ~~a certain title~~ titles; making a certain exception; requiring the Board to certify a licensed optometrist as a diagnostically certified optometrist under certain circumstances; requiring the Board to certify a licensed optometrist as a therapeutically certified optometrist under certain circumstances; authorizing ~~diagnostically~~ therapeutically certified optometrists to administer and prescribe certain therapeutic pharmaceutical agents ~~and to, remove certain foreign bodies from the human eye and adnexa, and perform certain other therapeutic tasks~~; prohibiting the performance of certain procedures; defining certain terms; altering certain definitions; making the provisions of this Act severable; and generally relating to ~~the administering and prescribing of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents and the removal of foreign bodies from the human eye and adnexa~~ by the scope of practice of therapeutically and diagnostically certified optometrists.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health Occupations

Section 11-101, 11-205(b), 11-207(b), 11-309, 11-402, 11-403, and 11-404

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Health Occupations

Section 11-404.1, 11-404.2, 11-404.3, and 11-503

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The General Assembly, in enacting this Act, has sought the input and cooperation of the Maryland Optometric Association, the Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and