

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

SenateHouse

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Representative Rizo offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 365-581 and insert:

a statewide professional association of licensed optometrists
which provides board-approved continuing education on an annual
basis. The statewide professional association of physicians and
statewide professional association of licensed optometrists must
establish a joint committee consisting of five individuals who
will be responsible for the development of the course and
examination. The statewide professional association of
physicians shall appoint two individuals to the committee who
must be board-certified ophthalmologists licensed pursuant to

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chapter 458 or chapter 459. The statewide professional association of licensed optometrists shall appoint three individuals to the committee who must be certified optometrists licensed pursuant to chapter 463. The board shall review and approve the content of the initial course and examination if the board determines that the course and examination adequately and reliably satisfy the criteria provided in this section. The board shall thereafter annually review and approve the examination if the board determines that the content continues to adequately and reliably satisfy the criteria provided in this section. Successful completion of the board-approved course and examination may be used by a certified optometrist to satisfy the continuing education requirements in s. 463.007(3) only for the biennial period in which the board-approved course and examination are taken. If a certified optometrist does not complete a board-approved course and examination under this section, the certified optometrist may not perform ophthalmic procedures described in paragraph (a).

(2) The following ophthalmic procedures are excluded from the scope of practice of optometry, except for the preoperative and postoperative care of these procedures:

(a) Laser vision correction, penetrating keratoplasty, and corneal or lamellar keratoplasty.

(b) Laser of the vitreous chamber or retina of the eye to treat any vitreomacular or retinal disease.

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39 (c) Surgery of the eyelid for suspected eyelid
40 malignancies or for incisional cosmetic or mechanical repair of
41 blepharochalasis, ptosis, or tarsorrhaphy.

42 (d) Surgery of the boney orbit, including, but not limited
43 to, orbital implants or removal of the human eye.

44 (e) Incisional or excisional surgery of the lacrimal
45 system other than lacrimal probing or related procedures.

46 (f) Surgery requiring full thickness incision or excision
47 of the cornea or sclera other than paracentesis in an emergency
48 situation requiring immediate reduction of elevated pressure
49 inside the eye.

50 (g) Surgery requiring incision or excision by scalpel of
51 the iris and ciliary body, including, but not limited to, iris
52 diathermy or cryotherapy.

53 (h) Surgery requiring incision or excision of the vitreous
54 or retina.

55 (i) Surgery requiring incision or excision of the
56 crystalline lens or an intraocular prosthetic implant.

57 (j) Surgery involving incision or excision of the
58 extraocular muscles.

59 (k) Surgery requiring full thickness conjunctivoplasty
60 with graft or flap.

61 (l) Pterygium surgery.

62 (m) Any other procedure or therapy as determined by the
63 board.

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64 **Section 6. Section 463.006, Florida Statutes, is amended**
65 **to read:**

66 463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.—

67 (1) Any person desiring to be a certified optometrist
68 under licensed practitioner pursuant to this chapter must apply
69 to the department, submit to background screening in accordance
70 with s. 456.0135, and must submit proof to the department that
71 she or he meets all of the following criteria:

72 (a) Has completed the application forms as required by the
73 board, remitted an application fee for certification not to
74 exceed \$250, remitted an examination fee for certification not
75 to exceed \$250, and remitted an examination fee for licensure
76 not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

77 (b) Is at least 18 years of age.

78 (c) Has graduated from an accredited school or college of
79 optometry approved by rule of the board.

80 (d) Is of good moral character.

81 (e) Has successfully completed at least 110 hours of
82 transcript-quality coursework and clinical training in general
83 and ocular pharmacology as determined by the board, at an
84 institution that:

85 1. Has facilities for both didactic and clinical
86 instructions in pharmacology; and

87 2. Is accredited by a regional or professional accrediting
88 organization that is recognized and approved by the Commission

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on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United States Department of Education.

(f) Has completed at least 1 year of supervised experience in differential diagnosis of eye disease or disorders as part of the optometric training or in a clinical setting as part of the optometric experience.

(g) Has successfully completed and passed a course and examination as provided in s. 463.0055(1)(b).

(2) The board shall approve a licensure examination consisting of the appropriate subjects and including applicable state laws and rules and general and ocular pharmacology with emphasis on the use and side effects of ocular pharmaceutical agents. The board may by rule substitute a national examination as part or all of the examination and, notwithstanding chapter 456, may by rule offer a practical examination in addition to a written examination. The board shall determine the required content, grading criteria, and passing score for the licensure examination.

(3) Each applicant who submits proof satisfactory to the board that he or she has met the requirements of subsection (1), who successfully passes the licensure examination within 3 years before the date of application or within 3 years after the submission of an application, and who otherwise meets the requirements of this chapter is entitled to be licensed as a certified optometrist ~~practitioner and to be certified to~~

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~~administer and prescribe ocular pharmaceutical agents in the
diagnosis and treatment of ocular conditions.~~

(4) All optometrists initially licensed on or after July
1, 2025, must be licensed as a certified optometrist.

**Section 7. Subsection (4) of section 463.007, Florida
Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5) and a new subsection
(4) is added to that section, to read:**

463.007 Renewal of license; continuing education.—

(4) As of July 1, 2025, successful completion of the
course and passage of the examination specified in s.
463.0055(1) (b) is required as a condition of licensure renewal
for any certified optometrist who has not already successfully
completed the course and passed the examination.

**Section 8. Subsections (12) and (13) are added to section
463.0135, Florida Statutes, to read:**

463.0135 Standards of practice.—

(12) Certified optometrists may remove superficial foreign
bodies. For the purpose of this subsection, the term
"superficial foreign bodies" means any foreign matter that is
embedded in the conjunctiva or cornea that has not penetrated
the globe. Notwithstanding the definition of surgery in s.
463.002, a certified optometrist may provide any optometric care
within the scope of practice of optometry as defined in s.
463.002, including, but not limited to, removing an eyelash,
removal of eyelid skin tags, removal of styes, ophthalmic

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procedures as defined and approved by the board, probing an uninflamed tear duct in a patient 18 years of age or older, blocking the puncta, or superficial scraping for the purpose of removing damaged epithelial tissue or superficial foreign bodies or taking a culture of the surface of the cornea or conjunctiva.

(13) A licensed practitioner who is not a certified optometrist is required to display at her or his place of practice a sign that states, "I am a Licensed Practitioner, not a Certified Optometrist, and I am not able to prescribe ocular pharmaceutical agents or perform ophthalmic procedures."

Section 9. Subsections (1), (4), and (5) of section 463.014, Florida Statutes, are amended, to read:

463.014 Certain acts prohibited.—

(1)(a) A ~~No~~ corporation, lay body, organization, or individual other than a licensed practitioner may not ~~shall~~ engage in the practice of optometry through the means of engaging the services, upon a salary, commission, or other means or inducement, of any person licensed to practice optometry in this state. ~~Nothing in This section does not shall be deemed to~~ prohibit the association of a licensed practitioner with a multidisciplinary group of licensed health care professionals, the primary objective of which is the diagnosis and treatment of the human body.

(b) A ~~No~~ licensed practitioner may not ~~shall~~ engage in the practice of optometry with any corporation, organization, group,

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164 or lay individual. This paragraph does ~~provision shall~~ not
165 prohibit licensed practitioners from employing, or from forming
166 partnerships or professional associations with, licensed
167 practitioners licensed in this state or with other licensed
168 health care professionals, the primary objective of whom is the
169 diagnosis and treatment of the human body.

170 (c) A ~~No~~ rule of the board may not ~~shall~~ forbid the
171 practice of optometry in or on the premises of a commercial or
172 mercantile establishment. Notwithstanding this paragraph, a
173 commercial or mercantile establishment or other such entity may
174 not have any control over the manner in which a licensee under
175 this chapter practices optometry. Any violation of this
176 paragraph will be deemed as unlicensed practice of optometry as
177 specified in s. 463.015(1)(a). Individual owners, officers, or
178 directors of any commercial or mercantile establishment or other
179 such entity in violation of this section will be deemed to have
180 committed the unlicensed practice of optometry.

181 (d) A ~~No~~ licensed practitioner may not practice under
182 practice identification names, trade names, or service names,
183 unless any dissemination of information by the practitioner to
184 consumers contains the name under which the practitioner is
185 licensed or that of the professional association in which the
186 practitioner participates. Any advertisement or other
187 dissemination of information to consumers may contain factual

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188 information as to the geographic location of licensed
189 practitioners or of the availability of optometric services.

190 (e) A ~~No~~ licensed practitioner may not ~~shall~~ adopt and
191 publish or cause to be published any practice identification
192 name, trade name, or service name which is, contains, or is
193 intended to serve as an affirmation of the quality or
194 competitive value of the optometric services provided at the
195 identified practice.

196 ~~(4) Surgery of any kind is expressly prohibited. Certified~~
197 ~~optometrists may remove superficial foreign bodies. For the~~
198 ~~purposes of this subsection, the term "superficial foreign~~
199 ~~bodies" means any foreign matter that is embedded in the~~
200 ~~conjunctiva or cornea but that has not penetrated the globe.~~
201 ~~Notwithstanding the definition of surgery as provided in s.~~
202 ~~463.002(6), a certified optometrist is not prohibited from~~
203 ~~providing any optometric care within the practice of optometry~~
204 ~~as defined in s. 463.002(7), such as removing an eyelash by~~
205 ~~epilation, probing an uninflamed tear duct in a patient 18 years~~
206 ~~of age or older, blocking the puncta by plug, or superficial~~
207 ~~scrapping for the purpose of removing damaged epithelial tissue~~
208 ~~or superficial foreign bodies or taking a culture of the surface~~
209 ~~of the cornea or conjunctiva.~~

210 ~~(4)(5)~~ A ~~No~~ rule of the board may not ~~shall~~ prohibit a
211 licensed practitioner from authorizing a board-certified

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212 optician to fill, fit, adapt, or dispense a contact lens
213 prescription as authorized under chapter 484.

214 **Section 10. Section 463.009, Florida Statutes, is amended**
215 **to read:**

216 463.009 Supportive personnel.—No person other than a
217 licensed practitioner may engage in the practice of optometry as
218 defined in s. 463.002 ~~s. 463.002(7)~~. Except as provided in this
219 section, under no circumstances shall nonlicensed supportive
220 personnel be delegated diagnosis or treatment duties; however,
221 such personnel may perform data gathering, preliminary testing,
222 and prescribed visual therapy and may assist in the selection,
223 preparation, designing, adapting, fitting, and dispensing of
224 lenses, spectacles, eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other
225 optical devices under the indirect supervision of a licensed
226 optometrist. For the purposes of this section, the term
227 "indirect supervision" means the availability of the supervising
228 optometrist to the nonlicensed supportive personnel, including
229 the ability to communicate by telecommunications or by being
230 within reasonable physical proximity and related duties under
231 the direct supervision of the licensed practitioner. Nonlicensed
232 personnel, who need not be employees of the licensed
233 practitioner, may perform ministerial duties, tasks, and
234 functions assigned to them by and performed under the general
235 supervision of a licensed practitioner, including obtaining
236 information from consumers for the purpose of making

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237 ~~appointments for the licensed practitioner.~~ The licensed
238 practitioner shall be responsible for all delegated acts
239 performed by persons under her or his direct, indirect, or ~~and~~
240 general supervision.

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244 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

245 Remove lines 16-41 and insert:

246 requiring the statewide professional association of
247 physicians and statewide professional association of
248 licensed optometrists to establish a joint committee
249 who will be responsible for the development of the
250 course and examination; providing requirements for the
251 joint committee; excluding specified procedures;
252 amending s. 463.006, F.S.; requiring a certified
253 optometrist desiring to be licensed as a certified
254 optometrist to submit to a background screening and
255 successfully complete and pass a specified course and
256 examination; requiring the board to determine the
257 required content, grading criteria, and passing score
258 for such examination; revising the timeline in which
259 an applicant may successfully pass the licensure
260 examination; amending s. 463.007, F.S.; revising
261 conditions of licensure to include the successful

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completion and passage of a specified course and
examination; amending s. 463.0135, F.S.; providing
authorized procedures a certified optometrist may
perform in the standards of practice; defining the
term "superficial foreign bodies"; requiring a
licensed practitioner to display specified signs at
his or her practice under certain circumstances;
amending s. 463.014, F.S.; providing penalties;
removing a provision prohibiting surgery of any kind;
creating s. 463.0185, F.S.; authorizing specified
titles and abbreviations for certified optometrists;
creating s. 463.0187, F.S.; providing requirements for
the demonstration of financial responsibility as a
condition of licensure; providing applicability;
amending s. 463.009, F.S.; expanding duties
nonlicensed supportive personnel may perform under
certain circumstances; defining the term "indirect
supervision"; amending s. 641.31, F.S.; conforming a
cross-reference; providing an effective

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