

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/4/19

92nd General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2019

HOUSE BILL 1251

By: Representatives Eubanks, Miller, Brown, Christiansen, D. Douglas, Evans, Holcomb, Jett, Lynch,
Petty, B. Smith, S. Smith, Vaught, Watson

By: Senators D. Wallace, Hester, Hill, Rapert

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PRACTICE OF
OPTOMETRY";

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "PRACTICE OF
OPTOMETRY"; AND TO MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE
OF OPTOMETRY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-90-101(a)(3)(B), concerning the
definition of "practice of optometry", is amended to read as follows:

(B) All licensed optometrists are prohibited from using
ophthalmic lasers for surgical procedures except as permitted in subdivision
(a)(3)(D) of this section, performing cataract surgery, performing radial
keratotomy surgery, and selling prescription drugs.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-90-101(a)(3), concerning the definition
of "practice of optometry", is amended to add an additional subdivision to
read as follows:

(D) The "practice of optometry" includes the following
procedures:

(i) Injections, excluding intravenous or intraocular
injections;

(ii) Incision and curettage of a chalazion;



(iii) Removal and biopsy of skin lesions with low risk of malignancy, excluding lesions involving the lid margin or nasal to the puncta;

(iv) Laser capsulotomy; and

(v) Laser trabeculoplasty.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-90-204, concerning the powers and duties of the State Board of Optometry, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(9) To establish credentialing requirements for a licensee to administer or perform procedures as listed in § 17-90-101(a)(3)(D).

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 90, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

17-90-206. Reporting requirements.

(a) The State Board of Optometry shall require every optometrist who meets the requirements for certification to perform authorized laser procedures to report to the board regarding the outcome of the procedures performed in a format as required or directed by the board.

(b) Reports under subsection (a) of this section shall also be sent to the Department of Health.

/s/Eubanks

APPROVED: 3/27/19