

By Representative K. Smith

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to ophthalmology; amending ss.
3 458.320 and 459.0085, F.S.; revising financial
4 responsibility requirements for certain
5 ophthalmologists; providing an effective date.
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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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9 Section 1. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (5) of
10 section 458.320, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

11 458.320 Financial responsibility.--

12 (5) The requirements of subsections (1), (2), and (3)
13 shall not apply to:

14 (h) Any person licensed under this chapter as an
15 ophthalmologist who does not prescribe medication or perform
16 surgery and whose practice is limited solely to eye
17 examinations and prescription of lenses, spectacles,
18 eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical devices. A
19 person exempt under this paragraph shall be considered the
20 equivalent of an optometrist licensed under chapter 463 for
21 purposes of qualifying for professional liability insurance.

22 Section 2. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (5) of
23 section 459.0085, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

24 459.0085 Financial responsibility.--

25 (5) The requirements of subsections (1), (2), and (3)
26 shall not apply to:

27 (h) Any person licensed under this chapter as an
28 ophthalmologist who does not prescribe medication or perform
29 surgery and whose practice is limited solely to eye
30 examinations and prescription of lenses, spectacles,
31 eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical devices. A

1 person exempt under this paragraph shall be considered the
2 equivalent of an optometrist licensed under chapter 463 for
3 purposes of qualifying for professional liability insurance.

4 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 1999.

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7 HOUSE SUMMARY

8 Provides that an ophthalmologist licensed under ch. 458
9 or ch. 459, F.S., who does not perform surgery or
10 prescribe medication and whose practice is limited solely
11 to eye examinations and the prescription of lenses,
12 spectacles, eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical
13 devices is exempt from the financial responsibility
14 requirements applicable to physicians and osteopathic
15 physicians and that such ophthalmologists shall be
16 considered the equivalent of optometrists licensed under
17 ch. 463, F.S., for purposes of qualifying for
18 professional liability insurance.
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