By Senator Latvala

	16-00693-17 20171168
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to optometry; amending s. 463.002,
3	F.S.; redefining and defining terms; amending s.
4	463.005, F.S.; specifying that the Board of Optometry
5	has the sole authority to determine what constitutes
6	the practice of optometry; authorizing the board to
7	issue specified advisory opinions and declaratory
8	rulings; providing construction for ch. 463, F.S.;
9	amending s. 463.0055, F.S.; restricting what a
10	licensed practitioner may administer or prescribe if
11	he or she does not complete a certain board-approved
12	course and examination; revising the date after which
13	a formulary rule becomes effective; deleting
14	provisions related to the creation of a statutory
15	formulary of oral ocular pharmaceutical agents;
16	revising the conditions under which an ocular
17	pharmaceutical agent is deleted from the formulary;
18	revising the controlled substances that a certified
19	optometrist in pharmaceutical agents is prohibited
20	from prescribing and administering; conforming
21	provisions to changes made by the act; creating s.
22	463.0056, F.S.; requiring a licensed practitioner to
23	complete a board-approved course and examination to
24	become a certified optometrist in ophthalmic surgery;
25	authorizing a certified optometrist in ophthalmic
26	surgery to perform laser and non-laser ophthalmic
27	surgery; requiring a certified optometrist in
28	ophthalmic surgery to provide proof of completion of a
29	certain course and examination before he or she may

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30	perform such surgeries; providing requirements for the
31	development and offering of such course and
32	examination; requiring the board to review and approve
33	the content of the initial course and examination if
34	it determines the course and examination satisfy
35	certain requirements; requiring an annual review
36	thereafter; authorizing the successful completion of
37	the course and examination to be used by a licensed
38	practitioner to satisfy continuing education
39	requirements; prohibiting a certified optometrist in
40	ophthalmic surgery from performing specified surgery
41	procedures; amending s. 463.014, F.S.; providing that
42	specified prohibited acts may be authorized by the
43	State Health Officer during a public emergency;
44	deleting a provision prohibiting surgery of any kind
45	by a certified optometrist; amending ss. 463.007,
46	463.009, 463.013, 463.0135, and 641.31, F.S.;
47	conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
48	providing an effective date.
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50	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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52	Section 1. Section 463.002, Florida Statutes, is reordered
53	and amended, to read:
54	463.002 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
55	(2)(1) "Board" means the Board of Optometry.
56	(3) "Certified optometrist in ophthalmic surgery" means a
57	licensed practitioner authorized by the board to perform
58	ophthalmic surgery.

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59	(6) (2) "Department" means the Department of Health.
60	<u>(9)(a)(3)(a)</u> "Licensed practitioner" means a person who is
61	a primary health care provider licensed to engage in the
62	practice of optometry under the authority of this chapter.
63	(b) A licensed practitioner who is not a certified
64	optometrist <u>in pharmaceutical agents is</u> shall be required to
65	display at her or his place of practice a sign <u>that</u> which
66	states, "I am a Licensed Practitioner, not a Certified
67	Optometrist in Pharmaceutical Agents, and I am not able to
68	prescribe ocular pharmaceutical agents."
69	(c) All practitioners initially licensed after July 1,
70	1993, must be certified optometrists in pharmaceutical agents.
71	(d) A licensed practitioner who is not a certified
72	optometrist in ophthalmic surgery is required to display at her
73	or his place of practice a sign that states, "I am a Licensed
74	Practitioner, not a Certified Optometrist in Ophthalmic Surgery,
75	and I am not able to perform laser or non-laser ophthalmic
76	surgery."
77	(4) "Certified optometrist in pharmaceutical agents" means
78	a licensed practitioner authorized by the board to administer
79	and prescribe ocular pharmaceutical agents.
80	(10) (5) "Ocular pharmaceutical agent" means <u>any</u>
81	prescription or nonprescription drug delivered by any route of
82	administration, used or prescribed for the diagnosis, treatment,
83	prevention, or mitigation of abnormal conditions and diseases of
84	the human eye and its adnexa and visual system, or products that
85	may be used for such purposes, and approved narcotics when used
86	in the treatment of disorders or diseases of the eye and its
87	adnexa and visual system. The term does not include any drug or

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other substance that is prohibited from use by a licensed
practitioner and is listed in Schedule I of the federal
Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. s. 812(c) a pharmaceutical
agent that is administered topically or orally for the diagnosis
or treatment of ocular conditions of the human eye and its
appendages without the use of surgery or other invasive
techniques.
(11) (6) "Ophthalmic surgery" means a procedure performed on
the human eye and its adnexa and visual system in which human
tissue is injected, cut, burned, frozen, sutured, vaporized,
coagulated, or photodisrupted by the use of surgical
instrumentation such as, but not limited to, a scalpel, a
cryoprobe, a laser, an electric cautery, or ionizing radiation
using an instrument, including a laser, scalpel, or needle, in
which human tissue is cut, burned, scraped except as provided in
s. 463.014(4), or vaporized, by incision, injection, ultrasound,
laser, infusion, cryotherapy, or radiation. The term includes a
procedure using an instrument which requires the closure of
human tissue by suture, clamp, or other such device.
(12) (7) "Optometry" means the practice in which a person:
(a) Employs primary eye care procedures, including the
prescription of ocular pharmaceutical agents, medical devices,
and ophthalmic surgery;
(b) Measures the power and range of vision of the human eye
using subjective and objective means, including the use of
lenses and prisms before the eye, autorefractors, and other
automated testing devices to determine the eye's accommodative
and refractive state and general scope of function;
(c) Engages in the adaption, sale, and dispensing of frames

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117	and lenses in all their forms, including plano or zero power
118	contact lenses, to overcome errors of refraction and restore, as
119	nearly as possible, normal human vision, or for orthotic,
120	prosthetic, therapeutic, or cosmetic purposes with respect to
121	contact lenses; or
122	(d) Examines for, diagnoses, and treats abnormal conditions
123	and diseases of the human eye and its adnexa and visual system,
124	including the use or prescription of vision therapy, ocular
125	exercises, rehabilitation therapy, subnormal vision therapy,
126	appropriate diagnostic lab or imaging tests, and samples to
127	initiate treatment diagnosis of conditions of the human eye and
128	its appendages; the employment of any objective or subjective
129	means or methods, including the administration of ocular
130	pharmaceutical agents, for the purpose of determining the
131	refractive powers of the human eyes, or any visual, muscular,
132	neurological, or anatomic anomalies of the human eyes and their
133	appendages; and the prescribing and employment of lenses,
134	prisms, frames, mountings, contact lenses, orthoptic exercises,
135	light frequencies, and any other means or methods, including
136	ocular pharmaceutical agents, for the correction, remedy, or
137	relief of any insufficiencies or abnormal conditions of the
138	human eyes and their appendages.
139	(7) (8) "Direct supervision" means supervision to an extent
140	that the licensee remains on the premises while all procedures
141	are being done and gives final approval to any procedures
142	performed by an employee.

(8) (9) "General supervision" means the responsible 143 supervision of supportive personnel by a licensee who need not 144 be present when such procedures are performed, but who assumes 145

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146	legal liability therefor. Except in cases of emergency, "general
147	supervision" shall require the easy availability or physical
148	presence of the licensee for consultation with and direction of
149	the supportive personnel.
150	(1) (10) "Adnexa Appendages" means the eyelids, the
151	eyebrows, the conjunctiva, and the lacrimal apparatus.
152	<u>(13)</u> "Transcript-quality" means a course which is in
153	conjunction with or sponsored by a school or college of
154	optometry or equivalent educational entity, which course is
155	approved by the board and requires a test and passing grade.
156	(5) (12) "Clock hours" means the actual time engaged in
157	approved coursework and clinical training.
158	Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) are added to section
159	463.005, Florida Statutes, to read:
160	463.005 Authority of the board
161	(3) The board has the sole authority to determine what
162	constitutes the practice of optometry and to exercise any powers
163	and duties conferred on it under this chapter. The board may
164	issue advisory opinions and declaratory rulings related to this
165	chapter and the administrative rules adopted under this chapter.
166	(4) This chapter may not be construed to authorize an
167	agency or a medical board or entity of this state other than the
168	board to determine what constitutes the practice of optometry.
169	Section 3. Section 463.0055, Florida Statutes, is amended
170	to read:
171	463.0055 Administration and prescription of ocular
172	pharmaceutical agents
173	(1)(a) Certified optometrists in pharmaceutical agents may
174	administer and prescribe ocular pharmaceutical agents as
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16-00693-17 20171168 175 provided in this section for the diagnosis and treatment of 176 ocular conditions of the human eye and its adnexa and visual 177 system appendages without the use of surgery or other invasive 178 techniques. However, a licensed practitioner who is not a 179 certified optometrist in pharmaceutical agents may use topically 180 applied anesthetics solely for the purpose of glaucoma 181 examinations, but is otherwise prohibited from administering or 182 prescribing ocular pharmaceutical agents. 183 (b) Before a certified optometrist in pharmaceutical agents may administer or prescribe oral ocular pharmaceutical agents, 184 185 the certified optometrist in pharmaceutical agents must provide

186 proof to the department of successful completion of a course and 187 subsequent examination, approved by the board, on general and 188 ocular pharmaceutical agents and the side effects of those 189 agents. The course must shall consist of 20 contact hours, all 190 of which may be web-based. The first course and examination 191 shall be presented by October 1, 2013, and shall be administered 192 at least annually thereafter. The course and examination shall 193 be developed and offered jointly by a statewide professional 194 association of physicians in this state accredited to provide 195 educational activities designated for the American Medical 196 Association Physician's Recognition Award (AMA PRA) Category 1 197 credit and a statewide professional association of licensed 198 practitioners which provides board-approved continuing education on an annual basis. The board shall review and approve the 199 200 content of the initial course and examination if the board 201 determines that the course and examination adequately and 202 reliably satisfy the criteria set forth in this section. The board shall thereafter annually review and approve the course 203

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204	and examination if the board determines that the content
205	continues to adequately and reliably satisfy the criteria set
206	forth in this section. Successful completion of the board-
207	approved course and examination may be used by a <u>licensed</u>
208	<u>practitioner</u> certified optometrist to satisfy 20 hours of the
209	continuing education requirements in s. 463.007(3), only for the
210	biennial period in which the board-approved course and
211	examination are taken. If a <u>licensed practitioner</u> certified
212	optometrist does not complete a board-approved course and
213	examination under this section, the <u>licensed practitioner may</u>
214	certified optometrist is only authorized to administer and
215	prescribe only topically applied anesthetics solely for the
216	purpose of glaucoma examinations, but is otherwise prohibited
217	from administering or prescribing topical ocular pharmaceutical
218	agents.
219	(2)(a) The board shall establish a formulary of topical
220	couler pharmaceutical econts that may be preserviced and

220 ocular pharmaceutical agents that may be prescribed and 221 administered by a certified optometrist in pharmaceutical 222 agents. The formulary must shall consist of those topical ocular 223 pharmaceutical agents that are appropriate to treat or diagnose 224 ocular diseases and disorders and that the certified optometrist 225 in pharmaceutical agents is qualified to use in the practice of 226 optometry. The board shall establish, add to, delete from, or 227 modify the topical formulary by rule. Notwithstanding any 228 provision of chapter 120 to the contrary, the topical formulary 229 rule becomes effective 20 $\frac{60}{60}$ days from the date it is filed with 230 the Secretary of State.

(b) The formulary may be added to, deleted from, ormodified according to the procedure described in paragraph (a).

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233	Any person who requests an addition, deletion, or modification
234	of an authorized topical ocular pharmaceutical agent shall have
235	the burden of proof to show cause why such addition, deletion,
236	or modification should be made.
237	(c) The State Surgeon General shall have standing to
238	challenge any rule or proposed rule of the board pursuant to s.
239	120.56. In addition to challenges for any invalid exercise of
240	delegated legislative authority, the administrative law judge,
241	upon such a challenge by the State Surgeon General, may declare
242	all or part of a rule or proposed rule invalid if it:
243	1. Does not protect the public from any significant and
244	discernible harm or damages;
245	2. Unreasonably restricts competition or the availability
246	of professional services in the state or in a significant part
247	of the state; or
248	3. Unnecessarily increases the cost of professional
249	services without a corresponding or equivalent public benefit.
250	
251	However, there shall not be created a presumption of the
252	existence of any of the conditions cited in this subsection in
253	the event that the rule or proposed rule is challenged.
254	(d) Upon adoption of the formulary required by this
255	section, and upon each addition, deletion, or modification to
256	the formulary, the board shall mail a copy of the amended
257	formulary to each certified optometrist in pharmaceutical agents
258	and to each pharmacy licensed by the state.
259	(3) In addition to the formulary of topical ocular
260	pharmaceutical agents established by rule of the board, there is

260 pharmaceutical agents established by rule of the board, the 261 created a statutory formulary of oral ocular pharmaceutical

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262	agents, which includes the following agents:
263	(a) The following analgesics or their generic or
264	therapeutic equivalents, which may not be administered or
265	prescribed for more than 72 hours without consultation with a
266	physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 who is
267	skilled in diseases of the eye:
268	1. Tramadol hydrochloride.
269	2. Acetaminophen 300 mg with No. 3 codeine phosphate 30 mg.
270	(b) The following antibiotics or their generic or
271	therapeutic equivalents:
272	1. Amoxicillin with or without clavulanic acid.
273	2. Azithromycin.
274	3. Erythromycin.
275	4. Dicloxacillin.
276	5. Doxycycline/Tetracycline.
277	6. Keflex.
278	7. Minocycline.
279	(c) The following antivirals or their generic or
280	therapeutic equivalents:
281	1. Acyclovir.
282	2. Fameiclovir.
283	3. Valacyclovir.
284	(d) The following oral anti-glaucoma agents or their
285	generic or therapeutic equivalents, which may not be
286	administered or prescribed for more than 72 hours:
287	1. Acetazolamide.
288	2. Methazolamide.
289	(e) Any oral ocular pharmaceutical agent that is <u>in the</u>
290	formulary established by the board under paragraph (a) $\frac{1}{1}$

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291	the statutory formulary set forth in this subsection and that is
292	subsequently determined by the United States Food and Drug
293	Administration to be unsafe for administration or prescription
294	shall be considered to have been deleted from the formulary of
295	oral ocular pharmaceutical agents. The oral ocular
296	pharmaceutical agents on the statutory formulary set forth in
297	this subsection may not otherwise be deleted by the board, the
298	department, or the State Surgeon General.
299	(3)(4) A certified optometrist in pharmaceutical agents
300	shall be issued a prescriber number by the board. Any
301	prescription written by a certified optometrist <u>in</u>
302	pharmaceutical agents for an ocular pharmaceutical agent
303	pursuant to this section <u>must</u> shall have the prescriber number
304	printed thereon. A certified optometrist in pharmaceutical
305	<u>agents</u> may not administer or prescribe :
306	$\frac{1}{2}$ a controlled substance listed in Schedule <u>I of the</u>
307	Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. s. 812(c) III, Schedule IV,
308	or Schedule V of s. 893.03, except for an oral analgesic placed
309	on the formulary pursuant to this section for the relief of pain
310	due to ocular conditions of the eye and its appendages.
311	(b) A controlled substance for the treatment of chronic
312	nonmalignant pain as defined in s. 456.44(1)(e).
313	Section 4. Section 463.0056, Florida Statutes, is created
314	to read:
315	463.0056 Administration and performance of laser and non-
316	laser surgical procedures
317	(1)(a) A licensed practitioner must complete a board-
318	approved course and examination under this section to become a
319	certified optometrist in ophthalmic surgery.

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320	(b) A certified optometrist in ophthalmic surgery may
321	perform laser and non-laser ophthalmic surgery. To perform laser
322	and non-laser ophthalmic surgery, the certified optometrist in
323	ophthalmic surgery must provide to the department proof of the
324	successful completion of a course and subsequent examination,
325	approved by the board, on laser and non-laser ophthalmic
326	surgery.
327	(2) The course and examination shall be developed and
328	offered jointly by a statewide professional association of
329	physicians in this state accredited to provide educational
330	activities designated for the American Medical Association
331	Physician's Recognition Award (AMA PRA) Category 1 Credit and a
332	statewide professional association of licensed practitioners
333	which provides board-approved continuing education on an annual
334	basis. The board shall review and approve the content of the
335	initial course and examination if the board determines that the
336	course and examination adequately and reliably satisfy the
337	requirements for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit eligibility. The
338	board shall thereafter annually review and approve the course
339	and examination if the board determines that the content
340	continues to adequately and reliably satisfy the requirements
341	for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit eligibility. Successful completion
342	of the board-approved course and examination may be used by a
343	licensed practitioner to satisfy the continuing education
344	requirements in s. 463.007(3), only for the biennial period in
345	which the board-approved course and examination are taken.
346	(3) The following surgical procedures, except for the
347	preoperative and postoperative care of these procedures, are
348	excluded from the scope of practice of optometry by a certified

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378	graft or flap.
379	(r) Pterygium surgery.
380	Section 5. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 463.014,
381	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
382	463.014 Certain acts prohibited
383	(3) Prescribing, ordering, dispensing, administering,
384	supplying, selling, or giving any drug for the purpose of
385	treating a systemic disease by a licensed practitioner is
386	prohibited, unless authorized by the State Health Officer during
387	<u>a public health emergency</u> . However, a certified optometrist <u>in</u>
388	pharmaceutical agents is permitted to use commonly accepted
389	means or methods to immediately address incidents of
390	anaphylaxis.
391	(4) Surgery of any kind is expressly prohibited. Certified
392	optometrists may remove superficial foreign bodies. For the
393	purposes of this subsection, the term "superficial foreign
394	bodies" means any foreign matter that is embedded in the
395	conjunctiva or cornea but that has not penetrated the globe.
396	Notwithstanding the definition of surgery as provided in s.
397	463.002(6), a certified optometrist is not prohibited from
398	providing any optometric care within the practice of optometry
399	as defined in s. 463.002(7), such as removing an eyelash by
400	epilation, probing an uninflamed tear duct in a patient 18 years
401	of age or older, blocking the puncta by plug, or superficial
402	scraping for the purpose of removing damaged epithelial tissue
403	or superficial foreign bodies or taking a culture of the surface
404	of the cornea or conjunctiva.
405	Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 463.007, Florida
406	Statutes, is amended to read:

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          463.007 Renewal of license; continuing education.-
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          (3) As a condition of license renewal, a licensee must
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     demonstrate his or her professional competence by completing up
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     to 30 hours of continuing education during the 2-year period
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     preceding license renewal. For certified optometrists in
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     pharmaceutical agents, the 30-hour continuing education
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     requirement includes 6 or more hours of approved transcript-
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     quality coursework in ocular and systemic pharmacology and the
     diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular and systemic
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     conditions and diseases during the 2-year period preceding
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     application for license renewal.
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          Section 7. Section 463.009, Florida Statutes, is amended to
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     read:
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          463.009 Supportive personnel.-No person other than a
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     licensed practitioner may engage in the practice of optometry as
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     defined in s. 463.002(12) s. 463.002(7). Except as provided in
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     this section, under no circumstances shall nonlicensed
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     supportive personnel be delegated diagnosis or treatment duties;
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     however, such personnel may perform data gathering, preliminary
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     testing, prescribed visual therapy, and related duties under the
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     direct supervision of the licensed practitioner. Nonlicensed
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     personnel, who need not be employees of the licensed
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     practitioner, may perform ministerial duties, tasks, and
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     functions assigned to them by and performed under the general
     supervision of a licensed practitioner, including obtaining
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     information from consumers for the purpose of making
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     appointments for the licensed practitioner. The licensed
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     practitioner shall be responsible for all delegated acts
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     performed by persons under her or his direct and general
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436 supervision. 437 Section 8. Section 463.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to 438 read: 439 463.013 Optometric services for certain public agencies.-440 Any agency of the state or county or any commission, clinic, or board administering relief, social security, health insurance, 441 442 or health service under the laws of the state shall accept the 443 services of licensed practitioners for the purposes of diagnosing and correcting any and all visual, muscular, 444 445 neurological, and anatomic anomalies of the human eyes and their adnexa and visual systems appendages of any persons under the 446

447 jurisdiction of said agency, clinic, commission, or board 448 administering such relief, social security, health insurance, or 449 health service on the same basis and on a parity with any other 450 person authorized by law to render similar professional service, 451 when such services are needed, and shall pay for such services 452 in the same way as other professionals may be paid for similar 453 services.

454 Section 9. Subsections (3) and (10) of section 463.0135, 455 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

456

463.0135 Standards of practice.-

(3) When an infectious corneal disease condition has not responded to standard methods of treatment within the scope of optometric practice, the <u>licensed practitioner or</u> certified optometrist <u>in pharmaceutical agents</u> shall consult with a physician skilled in diseases of the eye and licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459.

463 (10) A certified optometrist <u>in pharmaceutical agents</u> is
 464 authorized to perform any eye examination, including a dilated

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465	examination, required or authorized by chapter 548 or by rules
466	adopted to implement that chapter.
467	Section 10. Subsection (19) of section 641.31, Florida
468	Statutes, is amended to read:
469	641.31 Health maintenance contracts
470	(19) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, health
471	maintenance policies or contracts that which provide coverage,
472	benefits, or services as described in <u>s. 463.002(12)</u> s.
473	463.002(7), shall offer to the subscriber the services of an
474	optometrist licensed pursuant to chapter 463.
475	Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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