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16 ~~(6)-(8)~~ "Direct supervision" means supervision to an extent
17 that the licensee remains on the premises while all procedures
18 are being done and gives final approval to any procedures
19 performed by an employee.

20 ~~(7)-(9)~~ "General supervision" means the responsible
21 supervision of supportive personnel by a licensee who need not
22 be present when such procedures are performed, but who assumes
23 legal liability therefor. Except in cases of emergency, "general
24 supervision" shall require the easy availability or physical
25 presence of the licensee for consultation with and direction of
26 the supportive personnel.

27 ~~(8)-(3)(a)~~ "Licensed practitioner" means a person who is a
28 primary health care provider licensed to engage in the practice
29 of optometry under ~~the authority of~~ this chapter. For persons
30 licensed under this chapter after July 1, 1993, the term
31 includes only certified optometrists.

32 ~~(b) A licensed practitioner who is not a certified~~
33 ~~optometrist shall be required to display at her or his place of~~
34 ~~practice a sign which states, "I am a Licensed Practitioner, not~~
35 ~~a Certified Optometrist, and I am not able to prescribe ocular~~
36 ~~pharmaceutical agents."~~

37 ~~(c) All practitioners initially licensed after July 1,~~
38 ~~1993, must be certified optometrists.~~

39 ~~(9)-(5)~~ "Ocular pharmaceutical agent" means a
40 pharmaceutical agent that is administered or prescribed

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41 ~~topically or orally~~ for the diagnosis or treatment of ocular
42 conditions of the human eye and its appendages ~~without the use~~
43 ~~of surgery or other invasive techniques.~~

44 (10) "Optometrist certified in ophthalmic procedures"
45 means a certified optometrist who may perform board-approved
46 laser and non-laser ophthalmic procedures and therapies under s.
47 463.0056.

48 (11)-(7) "Optometry" means the diagnosis, evaluation,
49 treatment, and management of conditions of the human eye and its
50 appendages, including any visual, muscular, neurological, or
51 anatomical anomalies and chronic systemic conditions relating to
52 the eye and its appendages; the determination of the refractive
53 powers of the human eyes; and the prescribing and employment of
54 any ~~objective or subjective~~ means or methods, including the
55 administration of ocular pharmaceutical agents, contact lenses,
56 spectacle lenses, magnification lenses, orthoptic exercises,
57 vision therapy, low vision rehabilitation devices,
58 electromagnetic waves, pulsating light and light frequencies,
59 ophthalmic procedures and therapies, and neuro-optometric
60 rehabilitative therapy for the diagnosis, evaluation,
61 correction, remedy, treatment, management, or relief of any
62 insufficiency, anomaly, abnormality, or disease condition
63 relating to the human eye or its appendages. For purposes of
64 this subsection, the term "refractive" means the use of lenses
65 and ocular pharmaceutical agents during the course of a

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66 comprehensive medical eye examination to determine a patient's
67 visual, neurological, and physical requirements to attain
68 optimal visual and perceptual performance. ~~for the purpose of~~
69 ~~determining the refractive powers of the human eyes, or any~~
70 ~~visual, muscular, neurological, or anatomic anomalies of the~~
71 ~~human eyes and their appendages; and the prescribing and~~
72 ~~employment of lenses, prisms, frames, mountings, contact lenses,~~
73 ~~orthoptic exercises, light frequencies, and any other means or~~
74 ~~methods, including ocular pharmaceutical agents, for the~~
75 ~~correction, remedy, or relief of any insufficiencies or abnormal~~
76 ~~conditions of the human eyes and their appendages.~~

77 (12) "Refraction" means the use of lenses and ocular
78 pharmaceutical agents during the course of a comprehensive
79 medical eye examination to determine a patient's visual,
80 neurological, and physical requirements to attain optimal visual
81 and perceptual performance.

82 (13)(6) "Surgery" means a procedure using an instrument,
83 including a laser, scalpel, or needle, in which human tissue is
84 cut, burned, scraped, except as provided in s. 463.0135(12) s.
85 463.014(4), or vaporized, by incision, injection, ultrasound,
86 laser, infusion, cryotherapy, or radiation. The term includes a
87 procedure using an instrument which requires the closure of
88 human tissue by suture, clamp, or other such device. The term
89 does not include an ophthalmic procedure that does not burn,
90 cut, or incise the globe or require the closure of human tissue.

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91 ~~(14)-(11)~~ "Transcript-quality" means a live and in-person
92 course which is in conjunction with or sponsored by a school or
93 college of optometry or equivalent educational entity, which
94 course is approved by the board and requires a test and passing
95 grade.

96 **Section 2. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 463.003,**
97 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

98 463.003 Board of Optometry.—

99 (2) Five members of the board must be certified
100 optometrists or optometrists certified in ophthalmic procedures
101 ~~licensed practitioners~~ actively practicing in this state. The
102 remaining two members must be citizens of the state who are not,
103 and have never been, licensed practitioners and who are in no
104 way connected with the practice of optometry or with any vision-
105 oriented profession or business. At least one member of the
106 board must be 60 years of age or older.

107 (4) All applicable provisions of chapter 456 relating to
108 activities of regulatory boards that do not conflict with this
109 chapter shall apply.

110 **Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 463.005, Florida**
111 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

112 463.005 Authority of the board.—

113 (1) The Board of Optometry shall ~~has authority to~~ adopt
114 rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
115 provisions of this chapter conferring duties upon it. Such rules

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116 must ~~shall~~ include, but not be limited to, rules relating to all
117 of the following:

118 (a) Standards of practice, including, but not limited to,
119 those provided ~~for~~ in s. 463.0135.

120 (b) Minimum equipment that a certified optometrist, an
121 optometrist certified in ophthalmic procedures, or ~~which~~ a
122 licensed practitioner ~~must~~ shall at all times possess to
123 lawfully engage in the practice of optometry.

124 (c) Minimum procedures that ~~which shall~~ constitute a
125 visual examination.

126 (d) Procedures for the safekeeping and transfer of
127 prescription files or case records ~~upon the discontinuance of~~
128 ~~practice.~~

129 (e) Supervision of supportive personnel.

130 (f) Courses and procedures for continuing education.

131 (g) Practices and procedures related to the administration
132 and prescription of ocular pharmaceutical agents.

133 (h) Laser and non-laser ophthalmic procedures and
134 therapies an optometrist certified in ophthalmic procedures may
135 perform, including, but not limited to, the standards of
136 practice for such ophthalmic procedures and therapies.

137 (i) The scope of practice of optometry, including
138 ophthalmic procedures, as described in this chapter.

139 (j) Required content, grading criteria, and passing scores
140 for licensure examinations under s. 463.006.

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141 (k) The accredited schools or colleges of optometry that
142 are approved by the board for the purpose of licensure under s.
143 463.006.

144 (l) Terms and titles permitted for use in advertisements
145 by persons licensed under this section and providers registered
146 under s. 456.47(4).

147 (m) Standards for the use of telehealth by providers
148 licensed under this section and providers registered under s.
149 456.47(4).

150 (n) Requirements to obtain and maintain an out-of-state
151 telehealth provider registration as provided under s. 456.47(4),
152 including, but not limited to, application requirements,
153 continuing education requirements, scope of practice, standards
154 of practice, and renewal process for registration.
155 Notwithstanding s. 456.47(4), the board may not approve any
156 applicant for out-of-state telehealth registration who does not
157 hold a license issued by another state, the District of
158 Columbia, or a territory of the United States that is
159 substantially similar to a license held by a certified
160 optometrist under this chapter. Notwithstanding s. 456.47(4), an
161 out-of-state telehealth provider registration as provided under
162 s. 456.47(4) is not valid for more than 2 years.

163 **Section 4. Section 463.0055, Florida Statutes, is amended**
164 **to read:**

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165 463.0055 Administration and prescription of ocular
166 pharmaceutical agents.—

167 (1) (a) Certified optometrists may administer and prescribe
168 ocular pharmaceutical agents as provided in this section for the
169 diagnosis and treatment of ocular conditions of the human eye
170 and its appendages ~~without the use of surgery or other invasive~~
171 ~~techniques~~. However, a licensed practitioner who is not
172 certified may use topically applied anesthetics solely for the
173 purpose of glaucoma examinations, but is otherwise prohibited
174 from administering or prescribing ocular pharmaceutical agents.

175 (b) Before a certified optometrist may administer or
176 prescribe oral ocular pharmaceutical agents, the certified
177 optometrist must provide proof to the department of successful
178 completion of a course and subsequent examination, approved by
179 the board, on general and ocular pharmaceutical agents and the
180 side effects of those agents. The course shall consist of 20
181 contact hours, all of which may be web-based. The ~~first~~ course
182 ~~and examination shall be presented by October 1, 2013, and shall~~
183 ~~be administered at least annually thereafter~~. The course and
184 examination shall be developed and offered jointly by a
185 statewide professional association of physicians in this state
186 accredited to provide educational activities designated for the
187 American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award (AMA
188 PRA) Category 1 credit and a statewide professional association
189 of licensed practitioners which provides board-approved

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190 continuing education on an annual basis. The board shall review
191 and approve the content of the initial course and examination if
192 the board determines that the course and examination adequately
193 and reliably satisfy the criteria set forth in this section. The
194 board shall thereafter annually review and approve the course
195 and examination if the board determines that the content
196 continues to adequately and reliably satisfy the criteria set
197 forth in this section. Successful completion of the board-
198 approved course and examination may be used by a certified
199 optometrist to satisfy 20 hours of the continuing education
200 requirements in s. 463.007(3), only for the biennial period in
201 which the board-approved course and examination are taken. If a
202 certified optometrist does not complete a board-approved course
203 and examination under this section, the certified optometrist is
204 only authorized to administer and prescribe topical ocular
205 pharmaceutical agents. Beginning July 1, 2025, any person who
206 submits an application for licensure under this chapter must
207 successfully complete the course and examination as a
208 requirement for licensure.

209 (2) (a) The board shall establish a negative formulary of
210 ~~topical~~ ocular pharmaceutical agents that may not be prescribed
211 or ~~and~~ administered by a certified optometrist. ~~The formulary~~
212 ~~shall consist of those topical ocular pharmaceutical agents that~~
213 ~~are appropriate to treat or diagnose ocular diseases and~~
214 ~~disorders and that the certified optometrist is qualified to use~~

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215 ~~in the practice of optometry. The board shall establish, add to,~~
216 ~~delete from, or modify the topical formulary by rule.~~

217 ~~Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 120 to the contrary,~~
218 ~~the topical formulary rule becomes effective 60 days from the~~
219 ~~date it is filed with the Secretary of State.~~

220 ~~(b) The formulary may be added to, deleted from, or~~
221 ~~modified according to the procedure described in paragraph (a).~~
222 ~~Any person who requests an addition, deletion, or modification~~
223 ~~of an authorized topical ocular pharmaceutical agent shall have~~
224 ~~the burden of proof to show cause why such addition, deletion,~~
225 ~~or modification should be made.~~

226 ~~(c) The State Surgeon General shall have standing to~~
227 ~~challenge any rule or proposed rule of the board pursuant to s.~~
228 ~~120.56. In addition to challenges for any invalid exercise of~~
229 ~~delegated legislative authority, the administrative law judge,~~
230 ~~upon such a challenge by the State Surgeon General, may declare~~
231 ~~all or part of a rule or proposed rule invalid if it:~~

232 ~~1. Does not protect the public from any significant and~~
233 ~~discernible harm or damages;~~

234 ~~2. Unreasonably restricts competition or the availability~~
235 ~~of professional services in the state or in a significant part~~
236 ~~of the state; or~~

237 ~~3. Unnecessarily increases the cost of professional~~
238 ~~services without a corresponding or equivalent public benefit.~~

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240 ~~However, there shall not be created a presumption of the~~
241 ~~existence of any of the conditions cited in this subsection in~~
242 ~~the event that the rule or proposed rule is challenged.~~

243 ~~(b)(d)~~ Upon adoption of the negative formulary required by
244 this section, and upon each addition, deletion, or modification
245 to the formulary, the board shall mail a copy of the amended
246 formulary to each certified optometrist and to each pharmacy
247 licensed by the state.

248 ~~(3)~~ ~~In addition to the formulary of topical ocular~~
249 ~~pharmaceutical agents established by rule of the board, there is~~
250 ~~created a statutory formulary of oral ocular pharmaceutical~~
251 ~~agents, which includes the following agents:~~

252 ~~(a)~~ ~~The following analgesics or their generic or~~
253 ~~therapeutic equivalents, which may not be administered or~~
254 ~~prescribed for more than 72 hours without consultation with a~~
255 ~~physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 who is~~
256 ~~skilled in diseases of the eye:~~

257 ~~1. Tramadol hydrochloride.~~

258 ~~2. Acetaminophen 300 mg with No. 3 codeine phosphate 30~~
259 ~~mg.~~

260 ~~(b)~~ ~~The following antibiotics or their generic or~~
261 ~~therapeutic equivalents:~~

262 ~~1. Amoxicillin with or without clavulanic acid.~~

263 ~~2. Azithromycin.~~

264 ~~3. Erythromycin.~~

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265 ~~4. Dicloxacillin.~~

266 ~~5. Doxycycline/Tetracycline.~~

267 ~~6. Keflex.~~

268 ~~7. Minocycline.~~

269 ~~(c) The following antivirals or their generic or~~
270 ~~therapeutic equivalents:~~

271 ~~1. Acyclovir.~~

272 ~~2. Famciclovir.~~

273 ~~3. Valacyclovir.~~

274 ~~(d) The following oral anti-glaucoma agents or their~~
275 ~~generic or therapeutic equivalents, which may not be~~
276 ~~administered or prescribed for more than 72 hours:~~

277 ~~1. Acetazolamide.~~

278 ~~2. Methazolamide.~~

279

280 ~~Any oral ocular pharmaceutical agent that is listed in the~~
281 ~~statutory formulary set forth in this subsection and that is~~
282 ~~subsequently determined by the United States Food and Drug~~
283 ~~Administration to be unsafe for administration or prescription~~
284 ~~shall be considered to have been deleted from the formulary of~~
285 ~~oral ocular pharmaceutical agents. The oral ocular~~
286 ~~pharmaceutical agents on the statutory formulary set forth in~~
287 ~~this subsection may not otherwise be deleted by the board, the~~
288 ~~department, or the State Surgeon General.~~

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289 (3)-(4) A certified optometrist shall be issued a
290 prescriber number by the board. Any prescription written by a
291 certified optometrist for an ocular pharmaceutical agent
292 pursuant to this section shall have the prescriber number
293 printed thereon. A certified optometrist may not administer or
294 prescribe any of the following:

295 (a) A controlled substance listed in Schedule II, Schedule
296 III, Schedule IV, or Schedule V of s. 893.03, except for an oral
297 analgesic placed on the formulary pursuant to this section for
298 the relief of pain due to ocular conditions of the eye and its
299 appendages; or-

300 (b) A controlled substance for the treatment of chronic
301 nonmalignant pain as defined in s. 456.44(1)(f).

302 **Section 5. Section 463.0056, Florida Statutes, is created**
303 **to read:**

304 463.0056 Ophthalmic procedures and therapies.-

305 (1)(a) An optometrist certified in ophthalmic procedures
306 may perform laser and non-laser ophthalmic procedures and
307 therapies as authorized by the board but may not perform an
308 ophthalmic procedure or therapy that requires preoperative
309 medications or drug-induced alteration of consciousness.
310 However, an optometrist certified in ophthalmic procedures may
311 use medication for minimal tranquilization of the patient and
312 local or topical anesthesia if the chances of complications
313 requiring hospitalization of the patient as a result are remote.

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314 (b) To be certified to perform ophthalmic procedures, a
315 certified optometrist must first provide proof to the department
316 of successful completion of a course and subsequent examination,
317 approved by the board, on laser and non-laser ophthalmic
318 procedures and therapy. The course and examination shall be
319 developed and offered jointly by a statewide professional
320 association of physicians in this state accredited to provide
321 educational activities designated for the American Medical
322 Association Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 credit and
323 a statewide professional association of licensed practitioners
324 which provides board-approved continuing education on an annual
325 basis. The board shall review and approve the content of the
326 initial course and examination if the board determines that the
327 course and examination adequately and reliably satisfy the
328 criteria provided in this section. The board shall thereafter
329 annually review and approve the examination if the board
330 determines that the content continues to adequately and reliably
331 satisfy the criteria provided in this section. Successful
332 completion of the board-approved course and examination may be
333 used by a certified optometrist to satisfy the continuing
334 education requirements in s. 463.007(3) only for the biennial
335 period in which the board-approved course and examination are
336 taken. If a certified optometrist does not complete a board-
337 approved course and examination under this section, the

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338 certified optometrist may not perform ophthalmic procedures
339 described in paragraph (a).

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

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

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

347 (c) Surgery of the eyelid for suspected eyelid
348 malignancies or for incisional cosmetic or mechanical repair of
349 blepharochalasis, ptosis, or tarsorrhaphy.

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

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

354 (f) Surgery requiring full thickness incision or excision
355 of the cornea or sclera other than paracentesis in an emergency
356 situation requiring immediate reduction of elevated pressure
357 inside the eye.

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

361 (h) Surgery requiring incision or excision of the vitreous
362 or retina.

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

365 (j) Surgery involving incision or excision of the
366 extraocular muscles.

367 (k) Surgery requiring full thickness conjunctivoplasty
368 with graft or flap.

369 (l) Pterygium surgery.

370 (m) Any other procedure or therapy as determined by the
371 board.

372 **Section 6. Section 463.006, Florida Statutes, is amended**
373 **to read:**

374 463.006 Licensure and certification by examination.—

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

380 (a) Has completed the application forms as required by the
381 board, remitted an application fee for certification not to
382 exceed \$250, remitted an examination fee for certification not
383 to exceed \$250, and remitted an examination fee for licensure
384 not to exceed \$325, all as set by the board.

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

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

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388 (d) Is of good moral character.

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

393 1. Has facilities for both didactic and clinical
394 instructions in pharmacology; and

395 2. Is accredited by a regional or professional accrediting
396 organization that is recognized and approved by the Commission
397 on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation or the United
398 States Department of Education.

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

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

405 (2) The board shall approve a licensure examination
406 consisting of the appropriate subjects and including applicable
407 state laws and rules and general and ocular pharmacology with
408 emphasis on the use and side effects of ocular pharmaceutical
409 agents. The board may by rule substitute a national examination
410 as part or all of the examination and, notwithstanding chapter
411 456, may by rule offer a practical examination in addition to a
412 written examination. The board shall determine the required

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413 content, grading criteria, and passing score for the licensure
414 examination.

415 (3) Each applicant who submits proof satisfactory to the
416 board that he or she has met the requirements of subsection (1),
417 who successfully passes the licensure examination within 3 years
418 before the date of application or within 3 years after the
419 submission of an application, and who otherwise meets the
420 requirements of this chapter is entitled to be licensed as a
421 certified optometrist practitioner ~~and to be certified to~~
422 ~~administer and prescribe ocular pharmaceutical agents in the~~
423 ~~diagnosis and treatment of ocular conditions.~~

424 (4) All optometrists initially licensed on or after July
425 1, 2025, must be licensed as a certified optometrist.

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

429 463.007 Renewal of license; continuing education.—

430 (4) As of July 1, 2025, successful completion of the
431 course and passage of the examination specified in s.
432 463.0055(1)(b) is required as a condition of licensure renewal
433 for any certified optometrist who has not already successfully
434 completed the course and passed the examination.

435 **Section 8. Subsections (12) and (13) are added to section**
436 **463.0135, Florida Statutes, to read:**

437 463.0135 Standards of practice.—

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438 (12) Certified optometrists may remove superficial foreign
439 bodies. For the purpose of this subsection, the term
440 "superficial foreign bodies" means any foreign matter that is
441 embedded in the conjunctiva or cornea that has not penetrated
442 the globe. Notwithstanding the definition of surgery in s.
443 463.002, a certified optometrist may provide any optometric care
444 within the scope of practice of optometry as defined in s.
445 463.002, including, but not limited to, removing an eyelash,
446 removal of eyelid skin tags, removal of styes, ophthalmic
447 procedures as defined and approved by the board, probing an
448 uninflamed tear duct in a patient 18 years of age or older,
449 blocking the puncta, or superficial scraping for the purpose of
450 removing damaged epithelial tissue or superficial foreign bodies
451 or taking a culture of the surface of the cornea or conjunctiva.

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

457 **Section 9. Subsections (1), (4), and (5) of section**
458 **463.014, Florida Statutes, are amended, to read:**

459 463.014 Certain acts prohibited.—

460 (1)(a) A ~~Ne~~ corporation, lay body, organization, or
461 individual other than a licensed practitioner ~~may not shall~~
462 engage in the practice of optometry through the means of

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463 engaging the services, upon a salary, commission, or other means
464 or inducement, of any person licensed to practice optometry in
465 this state. ~~Nothing in This section does not shall be deemed to~~
466 prohibit the association of a licensed practitioner with a
467 multidisciplinary group of licensed health care professionals,
468 the primary objective of which is the diagnosis and treatment of
469 the human body.

470 (b) A ~~No~~ licensed practitioner may not shall engage in the
471 practice of optometry with any corporation, organization, group,
472 or lay individual. This paragraph does provision shall not
473 prohibit licensed practitioners from employing, or from forming
474 partnerships or professional associations with, licensed
475 practitioners licensed in this state or with other licensed
476 health care professionals, the primary objective of whom is the
477 diagnosis and treatment of the human body.

478 (c) A ~~No~~ rule of the board may not shall forbid the
479 practice of optometry in or on the premises of a commercial or
480 mercantile establishment. Notwithstanding this paragraph, a
481 commercial or mercantile establishment or other such entity may
482 not have any control over the manner in which a licensee under
483 this chapter practices optometry. Any violation of this
484 paragraph will be deemed as unlicensed practice of optometry as
485 specified in s. 463.015(1)(a). Individual owners, officers, or
486 directors of any commercial or mercantile establishment or other

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487 such entity in violation of this section will be deemed to have
488 committed the unlicensed practice of optometry.

489 (d) A ~~No~~ licensed practitioner may not practice under
490 practice identification names, trade names, or service names,
491 unless any dissemination of information by the practitioner to
492 consumers contains the name under which the practitioner is
493 licensed or that of the professional association in which the
494 practitioner participates. Any advertisement or other
495 dissemination of information to consumers may contain factual
496 information as to the geographic location of licensed
497 practitioners or of the availability of optometric services.

498 (e) A ~~No~~ licensed practitioner may not ~~shall~~ adopt and
499 publish or cause to be published any practice identification
500 name, trade name, or service name which is, contains, or is
501 intended to serve as an affirmation of the quality or
502 competitive value of the optometric services provided at the
503 identified practice.

504 ~~(4) Surgery of any kind is expressly prohibited. Certified~~
505 ~~optometrists may remove superficial foreign bodies. For the~~
506 ~~purposes of this subsection, the term "superficial foreign~~
507 ~~bodies" means any foreign matter that is embedded in the~~
508 ~~conjunctiva or cornea but that has not penetrated the globe.~~
509 ~~Notwithstanding the definition of surgery as provided in s.~~
510 ~~463.002(6), a certified optometrist is not prohibited from~~
511 ~~providing any optometric care within the practice of optometry~~

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512 ~~as defined in s. 463.002(7), such as removing an eyelash by~~
513 ~~epilation, probing an uninflamed tear duct in a patient 18 years~~
514 ~~of age or older, blocking the puncta by plug, or superficial~~
515 ~~scrapping for the purpose of removing damaged epithelial tissue~~
516 ~~or superficial foreign bodies or taking a culture of the surface~~
517 ~~of the cornea or conjunctiva.~~

518 ~~(4)-(5)~~ A ~~No~~ rule of the board may not ~~shall~~ prohibit a
519 licensed practitioner from authorizing a board-certified
520 optician to fill, fit, adapt, or dispense a contact lens
521 prescription as authorized under chapter 484.

522 **Section 10. Section 463.009, Florida Statutes, is amended**
523 **to read:**

524 463.009 Supportive personnel.—No person other than a
525 licensed practitioner may engage in the practice of optometry as
526 defined in s. 463.002 ~~s. 463.002(7)~~. Except as provided in this
527 section, under no circumstances shall nonlicensed supportive
528 personnel be delegated diagnosis or treatment duties; however,
529 such personnel may perform data gathering, preliminary testing,
530 prescribed visual therapy, and related duties under the direct
531 supervision of the licensed practitioner. Nonlicensed personnel,
532 who need not be employees of the licensed practitioner, may
533 perform ministerial duties, tasks, and functions assigned to
534 them by and performed under the general supervision of a
535 licensed practitioner, including obtaining information from
536 consumers for the purpose of making appointments for the

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537 licensed practitioner. The licensed practitioner shall be
538 responsible for all delegated acts performed by persons under
539 her or his direct and general supervision.

540 **Section 11. Section 463.0185, Florida Statutes, is created**
541 **to read:**

542 463.0185 Certified optometrist titles and abbreviations.-
543 An optometrist licensed under chapter 463 may use the following
544 titles and abbreviations as applicable to his or her license and
545 certification, including "optometrist," "licensed optometrist,"
546 "Doctor of Optometry," "O.D.," "optometric physician," "board
547 certified optometrist," "board certified optometric physician,"
548 "American Board of Optometry (ABO) certified," "Fellow of the
549 American Academy of Optometry," "Fellow of the College of
550 Optometrists in Vision Development," "Residency-trained,"
551 "Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry," or other titles
552 or abbreviations authorized under his or her practice act.

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

556 Remove lines 33-45 and insert:
557 circumstances; amending s. 463.014, F.S.; removing a
558 provision prohibiting surgery of any kind; creating s.
559 463.0185, F.S.; authorizing specified titles and
560 abbreviations for certified optometrists; creating s.
561 463.0186, F.S.; providing requirements for

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562 advertisements; providing penalties; providing that
563 certain licensed persons are fully responsible for the
564 content of all advertisements before publication;
565 creating s. 463.0187, F.S.; providing requirements for
566 the demonstration of financial responsibility as a
567 term of licensure; providing construction; amending s.
568 463.009; expanding duties nonlicensed supportive
569 personnel may perform; defining the term "indirect
570 supervision"; creating s. 463.0185, F.S.; authorizing
571 certified optometrists to use specified titles and
572 abbreviations; amending s. 641.31, F.S.; conforming a
573 cross-reference; providing