

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Bill 162 HYDROCODONE PRESCRIPTION BY OPTOMETRISTS

This is a technical change to the statute. This bill does not increase or change the current scope of practice of optometry.

Optometrists endorsed to prescribe medications currently have authority to prescribe Schedule III controlled substances such as hydrocodone+acetaminophen, a combination drug (also known as Vicodin).

The federal FDA is proposing to reclassify hydrocodone combination drugs such as Vicodin to a Schedule II. If this occurs, then optometrists will lose their current ability to prescribe this medication. So this bill simply makes an exception to the statute specifically for hydrocodone in case the FDA changes the classification, allowing optometrists to continue prescribing in the same manner as current law allows.