

TO: Senator Bert Stedman

FROM: Scott A. Limstrom, MD President, Alaska Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
3500 Latouche St., #250, Anchorage Alaska 99508, 907-561-1530

RE: SB 55 Review, Surgery and Injections

| ISSUE      | Provisions of SB 55  | Surgeries Allowable in SB 55   |
|------------|--|--|
| Surgery    | <p>SB 55 purports to prohibit “invasive surgery”. However, SB 55 contains a definition of “invasive surgery” that would allow optometrists to perform numerous surgical interventions in and around the eye and eyelids.</p> <p><b>Sec. 5. AS 08.72 is amended by adding a new section to read:</b></p> <p><b>22 (b) A licensee may not perform invasive surgery.</b></p> <p><b>Sec. 6. AS 08.72.300(3) is repealed and reenacted to read:</b></p> <p><b>29 (6) "invasive surgery" means surgery requiring penetration through the</b></p> <p><b>30 globe of the eye, extraocular muscle surgery, retina surgery, corneal transplantation,</b></p> <p><b>31 refractive surgery, or cosmetic lid surgery; in this paragraph, "refractive surgery"</b></p> <p><b>01 includes laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) and photorefractive</b></p> <p><b>02 keratectomy (PRK).</b></p> | <p>The provision prohibiting invasive surgeries <b>REQUIRING PENETRATION THROUGH</b> the globe of the eye <u>would allow</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Pterygium excision</li><li>2. Phototherapeutic Keratectomy (PTK)</li><li>3. Lamellar corneal transplants (partial thickness transplants)</li><li>4. Intracorneal rings</li></ol> <p>And more.</p> <p>This provision <u>would allow</u> optometrists to use lasers that don't "penetrate through the globe" such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Laser Peripheral Iridotomies</li><li>2. Yag Capsulotomies</li><li>3. Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty</li><li>4. Argon Laser Trabeculoplasty</li></ol> <p>and others</p> <p>The provision prohibiting "cosmetic lid surgery" <u>would allow</u> NON-cosmetic lid surgeries (especially since it doesn't "penetrate through the globe"). They could do:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ptosis surgery</li><li>2. Blepharoplasty</li><li>3. Entropion/ectropion repair</li><li>4. Malignant and benign eyelid tumor excisions and reconstructions</li><li>5. Lacrimal surgeries</li><li>6. Punctoplasty</li></ol> <p>And many others.</p> <p>The provision prohibiting "refractive surgery" but only specifying "LASIK and PRK" would allow at least 7 other refractive surgeries of the eye including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. LASEK</li><li>2. Laser Thermal Keratoplasty</li><li>3. Conductive Keratoplasty</li><li>4. Limbal relaxing Incisions</li><li>5. Astigmatic Keratotomy</li><li>6. Radial Keratotomy</li></ol> <p>Some of the above being lasers and some being scalpel, but none of which "penetrate through the eye globe."</p> |
| Injections | <p>Sec. 4. AS 08.72.272 under current law authorizes injections except for injections into the ocular globe of the eye and an injection that is a derivative of clostridium botulinum. SB 55 replaces those limitations with the following limitation on injections:</p> <p><b>15 * Sec. 4. AS 08.72.272 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:</b></p> <p><b>16 (e) A licensee may not perform an intravitreal injection.</b></p>   | <p>The new provision on injections <u>would allow</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Botox injections into the extraocular muscles for strabismus.</li><li>2. Botox injections for blepharospasm</li><li>3. Cosmetic Botox injections</li><li>4. Subtenon Injections</li><li>5. Microshunts</li><li>6. Anterior chamber paracentesis/taps</li></ol>   |