

# SB 55 – Authorizing Surgery by Non-MDs

- SB 55 claims to “exclude” a short list of surgeries from the practice of optometry.
- But optometrists **would be authorized** to perform ANY surgery that’s NOT listed in the bill:

## SB 55 - Examples of Surgeries Authorized for Optometrists

Surgical Procedure	Potential Complications
<b>Glaucoma Laser Procedures:</b> Argon Laser Trabeculoplasty (ALT) Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) Argon/YAG Peripheral Iridotomy (PI) Laser Iridoplasty <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Involves careful placement of laser energy to structures, some smaller than a human hair to achieve effect</li><li>□ Requires special high power contact lenses and mirrors</li><li>□ Improper treatment can permanently damage drainage structures (possibly making intraocular pressure problems <b>worse</b>) and cause cataract.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Severe post-operative intraocular pressure rises, possibly “snuffing out” an already damaged/weakened optic nerve in severe glaucomas.</li><li>□ Cataract due to laser injuries to lens capsule</li><li>□ Inflammation inside the eye</li><li>□ Corneal abrasion/infection/ulcer (from contact lens)</li><li>□ Conjunctivitis</li></ul>
<b>Laser Capsulotomy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Performed after cataract surgery to create opening in membrane behind artificial lens that’s become cloudy/opaque</li><li>□ Careful placement/restriction of laser energy needed to limit size of hole (note in lower photo how close opening is to lens edge) as lens can lose support and fall into back of eye.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ <b>Retinal detachment</b> (energy used creates a “shock wave”)</li><li>□ <b>Dislocation of artificial lens into back of eye.</b></li><li>□ Damage to artificial lens impairing vision</li><li>□ Corneal abrasion/infection/ulcer (from contact lens)</li><li>□ Inflammation inside the eye or on the surface of the eye</li></ul>