

TO: Senator Bert Stedman

FROM: Scott A. Limstrom, MD President, Alaska Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
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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>Sec. 5. AS 08.72 is amended by adding a new section to read:</p> <p>22 (b) A licensee may not perform invasive surgery.</p> <p>Sec. 6. AS 08.72.300(3) is repealed and reenacted to read:</p> <p>29 (6) "invasive surgery" means surgery requiring penetration through the</p> <p>30 globe of the eye, extraocular muscle surgery, retina surgery, corneal transplantation,</p> <p>31 refractive surgery, or cosmetic lid surgery; in this paragraph, "refractive surgery"</p> <p>01 includes laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) and photorefractive</p> <p>02 keratectomy (PRK).</p>	<p>The provision prohibiting invasive surgeries REQUIRING PENETRATION THROUGH the globe of the eye <u>would allow</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pterygium excision2. Phototherapeutic Keratectomy (PTK)3. Lamellar corneal transplants (partial thickness transplants)4. Intracorneal rings <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">1. Laser Peripheral Iridotomies2. Yag Capsulotomies3. Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty4. Argon Laser Trabeculoplasty <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">1. Ptosis surgery2. Blepharoplasty3. Entropion/ectropion repair4. Malignant and benign eyelid tumor excisions and reconstructions5. Lacrimal surgeries6. Punctoplasty <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">1. LASEK2. Laser Thermal Keratoplasty3. Conductive Keratoplasty4. Limbal relaxing Incisions5. Astigmatic Keratotomy6. Radial Keratotomy <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>15 * Sec. 4. AS 08.72.272 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:</p> <p>16 (e) A licensee may not perform an intravitreal injection.</p>	<p>The new provision on injections <u>would allow</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Botox injections into the extraocular muscles for strabismus.2. Botox injections for blepharospasm3. Cosmetic Botox injections4. Subtenon Injections5. Microshunts6. Anterior chamber paracentesis/taps