

**HOUSE BILL NO. 521**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 2/19/96

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to optometry and optometrists."

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 \* **Section 1.** AS 08.72.175 is amended to read:

4           Sec. 08.72.175. LICENSE ENDORSEMENT. (a) The board may issue a  
5 license endorsement authorizing a licensee to prescribe and use [THE] pharmaceutical  
6 agents **determined appropriate by the board** [DESCRIBED IN AS 08.72.272,] if the  
7 licensee or applicant for a license passes the written and practical portions of an  
8 examination on ocular pharmacology, approved by the board, that tests the licensee's  
9 or the applicant's knowledge of the characteristics, pharmacological effects,  
10 indications, contraindications, and emergency care associated with the prescription and  
11 use of pharmaceutical agents. The endorsement expires at the same time as the license  
12 to which it attaches. The endorsement may be renewed upon satisfactory completion  
13 of continuing education requirements established by the board by regulation.

14           (b) A pharmacist or pharmaceutical supplier may supply a licensee with **a**  
15 pharmaceutical **agent** [AGENTS AS PROVIDED UNDER AS 08.72.272] upon

1 presentation of evidence that the licensee holds a license endorsement under this  
2 section **that authorizes use of the pharmaceutical agent.**

3 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 08.72.175 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 (c) Notwithstanding AS 08.72.273 and the definition of "optometry" in  
5 AS 08.72.300, a licensee may use a laser, x-rays, invasive surgery, and other specific  
6 methods, as determined by the board in regulations, only if the board

7 (1) determines that the person is educationally qualified to use the  
8 method and meets other requirements that the board may establish by regulation; and

9 (2) has issued to the licensee a license endorsement authorizing the  
10 licensee to use the method.

11 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 08.72.272(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) A licensee may prescribe and use a pharmaceutical agent in the practice  
13 of optometry if

14 [(1) THE PHARMACEUTICAL AGENT IS A DRUG TOPICALLY  
15 APPLIED TO THE HUMAN EYE AND ITS APPENDAGES; AND

16 (2)] the person holds a license endorsement issued by the board  
17 authorizing the prescription and use of **the** pharmaceutical **agent** [AGENTS].

18 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 08.72.273 is amended to read:

19 Sec. 08.72.273. REMOVAL OF FOREIGN BODIES. A licensee may remove  
20 superficial foreign bodies from the eye and its appendages. [THIS SECTION IS NOT  
21 INTENDED TO PERMIT A LICENSEE TO PERFORM INVASIVE SURGERY.]

22 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 08.72.300(3) is amended to read:

23 (3) "optometry" means the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of  
24 conditions of the human eyes and visual system [, OTHER THAN BY USE OF  
25 LASER, X-RAYS, SURGERY, OR PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS, OTHER THAN  
26 THOSE PERMITTED UNDER AS 08.72.272]; "optometry" includes the employment  
27 of methods that a person licensed under this chapter is educationally qualified to use,  
28 as established by the board;