

**SENATE BILL NO. 173**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 4/2/01

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

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to the use of pharmaceutical agents in the practice of optometry; and  
2 providing for an effective date."

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

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

5 **Sec. 08.72.175. License endorsement.** (a) The board may issue a license  
6 endorsement authorizing a licensee to prescribe and use a [THE] pharmaceutical  
7 **agent** [AGENTS] described in AS 08.72.272, if the licensee or applicant for a license  
8 **(1)** passes the written and practical portions of an examination on ocular  
9 pharmacology, approved by the board, that tests the licensee's or the applicant's  
10 knowledge of the characteristics, pharmacological effects, indications,  
11 contraindications, and emergency care associated with the prescription and use of  
12 pharmaceutical agents; **and (2) meets additional education requirements, if any,**  
13 **that are adopted by the board for receiving the endorsement. In addition to the**  
14 **limitations contained in AS 08.72.272, the board may further limit the type of**

1 **pharmaceutical agents that are authorized for use under an endorsement.** The  
 2 endorsement expires at the same time as the license to which it attaches. The  
 3 endorsement may be renewed upon satisfactory completion of continuing education  
 4 requirements established by the board by regulation. **Regulations adopted by the**  
 5 **board under this subsection must be related to ensuring that the licensee with an**  
 6 **endorsement is competent to prescribe and use the pharmaceutical agents**  
 7 **authorized under the endorsement.**

8 (b) A pharmacist or pharmaceutical supplier may supply a licensee with **a**  
 9 pharmaceutical **agent** [AGENTS] as provided under AS 08.72.272 upon presentation  
 10 of evidence that the licensee holds a license endorsement under this section **that**  
 11 **authorizes use of the pharmaceutical agent.**

12 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 08.72.272 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 08.72.272. Use of pharmaceutical agents.** (a) **Except as provided in**  
 14 **(c) of this section, a** [A] licensee may prescribe and use a pharmaceutical agent,  
 15 **including a controlled substance,** in the practice of optometry if

16 (1) **the pharmaceutical agent is not included on schedule IA or IIA**  
 17 **under AS 11.71;**

18 (2) the pharmaceutical agent is **related to the diagnosis and**  
 19 **treatment of** [A DRUG TOPICALLY APPLIED TO] the human eye and its  
 20 appendages, **including the treatment of anaphylaxis;** and

21 (3) [(2)] the person holds a license endorsement issued by the board  
 22 authorizing the prescription and use of **the** pharmaceutical **agent** [AGENTS].

23 (b) A licensee may not purchase, possess, prescribe, or use a  
 24 pharmaceutical agent unless the licensee has obtained a license endorsement under  
 25 AS 08.72.175 **that authorizes use of the pharmaceutical agent.**

26 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 08.72.272 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

27 (c) A licensee may not inject a pharmaceutical agent into the globe of the eye.

28 \* **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).