

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 113(HES)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/2/07

Referred: Labor and Commerce

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SAMUELS, Thomas, Kawasaki, Gruenberg, LeDoux, Lynn

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to the prescription and use of pharmaceutical agents, including  
2 controlled substances, by optometrists."

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

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

5 (a) The board may issue a license endorsement authorizing a licensee to  
6 prescribe and use the pharmaceutical agents described in AS 08.72.272(a), if the  
7 licensee or applicant for a license **has successfully completed**

8 **(1)** [PASSES] the written and practical portions of an examination on  
9 ocular 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;

13 **(2)** **a nontopical therapeutic pharmaceutical agent course of at**  
14 **least 23 hours approved by the board or an examination approved by the board**

1 **on the treatment and management of ocular disease; and**

2 **(3) an optometry and nontopical therapeutic pharmaceutical agent**  
 3 **injection course of at least seven hours approved by the board or equivalent**  
 4 **training acceptable to the board** [. THE ENDORSEMENT EXPIRES AT THE  
 5 SAME TIME AS THE LICENSE TO WHICH IT ATTACHES. THE  
 6 ENDORSEMENT MAY BE RENEWED UPON SATISFACTORY COMPLETION  
 7 OF CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE  
 8 BOARD BY REGULATION].

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

10 (d) A license endorsement issued under (a) of this section expires at the same  
 11 time as the license to which it attaches. Renewal of the endorsement may not be  
 12 granted unless, in the four years preceding the application for renewal, the licensee has  
 13 successfully

14 (1) completed eight hours of continuing education approved by the  
 15 board concerning the use and prescription of pharmaceutical agents;

16 (2) completed seven hours of continuing education approved by the  
 17 board concerning the injection of nontopical therapeutic pharmaceutical agents; and

18 (3) met other requirements the board considers necessary to ensure the  
 19 continued protection of the public.

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

21 (a) A licensee **with an endorsement issued under AS 08.72.175(a)** may  
 22 prescribe and use a pharmaceutical agent, **including a controlled substance,** in the  
 23 practice of optometry if

24 (1) the pharmaceutical agent

25 **(A) is prescribed and used for the treatment of ocular**  
 26 **disease or conditions, ocular adnexal disease or conditions, or emergency**  
 27 **anaphylaxis;**

28 **(B) is not a schedule IA, IIA, or VIA controlled substance;**  
 29 **and**

30 **(C) is prescribed in a quantity that does not exceed four**  
 31 **days of prescribed use if it is a controlled substance;**

1                    **(D) is not injected into the ocular globe of the eye** [IS A  
2 DRUG TOPICALLY APPLIED TO THE HUMAN EYE AND ITS  
3 APPENDAGES]; and

4                    (2) the **licensee**

5                    **(A) has a physician-patient relationship, as defined by the**  
6 **board in regulations adopted under this chapter, with the person to whom**  
7 **the pharmaceutical agent is prescribed; and**

8                    **(B) has on file with the department the licensee's current**  
9 **federal Drug Enforcement Administration registration number that is**  
10 **valid for the controlled substance prescribed or used** [PERSON HOLDS A  
11 LICENSE ENDORSEMENT ISSUED BY THE BOARD AUTHORIZING  
12 THE PRESCRIPTION AND USE OF PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS].

13 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 08.72.272(c) is amended to read:

14                    (c) A licensee may use a pharmaceutical agent in the practice of optometry if

15                    (1) the pharmaceutical agent is a drug topically applied to the human  
16 eye and its appendages; and

17                    (2) the person holds a license endorsement issued by the board **under**  
18 **AS 08.72.175(c)** authorizing the use of the pharmaceutical agent **under this**  
19 **subsection.**

20 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 08.72.272 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21                    (d) In this section, "controlled substance" has the meaning given in  
22 AS 11.71.900.

23 \* **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
24 read:

25                    TRANSITION. (a) A license endorsement issued under AS 08.72.175(a) before the  
26 effective date of this Act continues in effect for the term issued unless revoked or suspended  
27 by the Board of Examiners in Optometry.

28                    (b) The changes made by this Act to AS 08.72.175 and 08.72.272(a) do not affect the  
29 scope of practice allowed under a license endorsement issued under AS 08.72.175(a) before  
30 the effective date of this Act.

31                    (c) A license endorsement issued under AS 08.72.175(a) before the effective date of

1 this Act may not be renewed on or after the effective date of this Act.