

Introduced: 2/3/81
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Judiciary

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE BILL NO. 136

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the practice of optometry, and
7 authorizing the use of ophthalmic drugs by optome-
8 trists."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 08.72.300(2) is amended to read:

11 (2) "optometry" is the examination [, OTHER THAN BY THE USE
12 OF DRUGS,] of the human eyes and the visual system for the purpose of
13 ascertaining a departure from the normal, ascertaining the status of
14 the human visual system, including refractive and functional abilities,
15 or ascertaining the presence of ocular disease and any other departure
16 from the normal which may require [REQUIRES] referral to other health
17 care practitioners; or the diagnosis of an optical deficiency or de-
18 formity, visual or muscular anomaly of the human eye, [,] or the pre-
19 scription or application of lenses, prisms or ocular exercises, or other
20 procedures taught by schools and colleges of optometry for the correc-
21 tion or relief of the human eye;

22 * Sec. 2. AS 08.72.300(3) is amended to read:

23 (3) "practicing optometry" is an examination [, OTHER THAN
24 BY THE USE OF DRUGS,] of the human eyes and visual system for the
25 purpose of ascertaining a departure from the normal, ascertaining the
26 status of the human visual system, including refractive and functional
27 abilities, or ascertaining the presence of ocular disease and any other
28 departure from the normal which may require [REQUIRES] referral to
29 other health care practitioners; or the diagnosis of an optical defi-

1 ciency or deformity, visual or muscular anomaly of the human eye, [,]
2 or the prescription or application of lenses, prisms or ocular exer-
3 cises, or other procedures taught by schools and colleges of optometry
4 for the correction or relief of the human eye, [,] or the holding of
5 oneself out as being able to do so;

6 * Sec. 3. AS 08.72 is amended by adding a new section to read:

7 Sec. 08.72.277. USE OF DRUGS. A person may not use a drug in the
8 practice of optometry, except that a person licensed under this chapter
9 may use an ophthalmic drug if

10 (1) the drug has been identified as an ophthalmic drug by
11 regulation of the board;

12 (2) he has completed courses and clinical experience in the
13 use of ophthalmic drugs approved by the board and offered by a recog-
14 nized school or college of optometry, and has passed a test given by
15 the school or college in the use of ophthalmic drugs;

16 (3) he has passed an examination on the pharmacology of
17 ophthalmic drugs given by the board; and

18 (4) he has received an endorsement by the board to his
19 registration certificate authorizing him to use ophthalmic drugs and
20 specifying restrictions on their use, if any.

21 * Sec. 4. AS 17.15.010 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

22 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, an ophthalmic drug
23 identified by regulation of the Board of Examiners in Optometry may be
24 sold, given away, bartered, exchanged, or distributed upon the written
25 order or prescription of an optometrist who is authorized to use the
26 drug as provided in AS 08.72.277.

27 * Sec. 5. AS 17.15.030 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (b) AS 17.15.010 and 17.15.020 do not apply to the sale at whole-
29 sale by drug jobbers, drug wholesalers and drug manufacturers, or at

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retail in a pharmacy by a pharmacist, of an ophthalmic drug identified by regulation of the Board of Examiners in Optometry to an optometrist who is authorized to use the drug as provided in AS 08.72.277. AS 17.-15.010 and 17.15.020 do not apply to the sale of an ophthalmic drug identified by regulation of the Board of Examiners in Optometry by one optometrist authorized to use the ophthalmic drug to another optometrist authorized to use the drug.