

Introduced: 3/15/89  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services

6-0893A

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 222

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to optometrists and opticians."

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

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

9 Sec. 08.72.175. LICENSE ENDORSEMENT. (a) The board may issue a  
10 license endorsement authorizing a licensee to use the pharmaceutical  
11 agents described in AS 08.72.272 [,] if the licensee or applicant for  
12 a license passes the written and practical portions of an examination  
13 on ocular pharmacology, approved by the board, and fulfills additional  
14 requirements for an endorsement that the board may specify by regu-  
15 lation. The examination on ocular pharmacology must test [THAT TESTS]  
16 the licensee's or the applicant's knowledge of the characteristics,  
17 pharmacological effects, indications, contraindications, and emergency  
18 care associated with the use of pharmaceutical agents. The endorsement  
19 expires at the same time as the license to which it attaches. The  
20 endorsement may be renewed upon satisfactory completion of continuing  
21 education requirements established by the board by regulation.

22 (b) A pharmacist or pharmaceutical supplier may supply a li-  
23 censee or the patient of a licensee with pharmaceutical agents as  
24 provided under AS 08.72.272 upon presentation of evidence that the  
25 licensee holds a license endorsement under this section or, in the  
26 case of a patient, upon presentation of a signed prescription request  
27 from an optometrist who holds a license endorsement under this sec-  
28 tion.

29 \* Sec. 2. AS 08.72.272(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) A licensee may use a pharmaceutical agent in the practice of  
2 optometry if

3 (1) the pharmaceutical agent is

4 (A) a drug approved by the federal Food and Drug  
5 Administration for topical application to the human eye [, USED  
6 FOR EXAMINATION PURPOSES ONLY,] within the categories of

7 (i) topically applied ocular anesthetics, but not  
8 including cocaine;

9 (ii) cycloplegics or mydriatics, but not including  
10 atropine, homatropine, scopolamine, epinephrine, and 10  
11 percent phenylephrine; [OR]

12 (iii) anti-infectives;

13 (iv) anti-inflammatories; or

14 (B) a drug, within the category of miotics used, after  
15 consultation with an ophthalmologist, for the treatment of an  
16 inadvertently induced angle closure; and

17 (2) the person holds a license endorsement issued by the  
18 board authorizing the use of pharmaceutical agents.

19 \* Sec. 3. AS 08.72.274 is amended to read:

20 Sec. 08.72.274. EXEMPTION. This chapter and regulations adopted  
21 under this chapter do not limit the practice of an optician licensed  
22 under AS 08.71 except to the extent that the optician practices op-  
23 tometry.

24 \* Sec. 4. AS 08.72.300(3) is amended to read:

25 (3) "optometry" means the examination, diagnosis, and  
26 treatment of conditions of the human eyes and visual system, other  
27 than by use of laser, x-rays, surgery except removal of superficially  
28 embedded foreign bodies, or pharmaceutical agents, other than those  
29 permitted under AS 08.72.272; "optometry" includes the employment of

- 1 methods that a person licensed under this chapter is educationally  
2 qualified to use, as established by the board;  
3 \* Sec. 5. AS 08.72.272(b) is repealed.