

HOUSE BILL NO. 461**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION****BY REPRESENTATIVE MULDER BY REQUEST****Introduced: 2/11/94****Referred: Health, Education & Social Services, Finance****A BILL****FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to Medicaid payments for the services of optometrists; and
2 providing for an effective date."

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

4 * Section 1. AS 47.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 Sec. 47.07.067. **PAYMENT FOR OPTOMETRISTS' SERVICES.** (a) The
6 department shall pay the same amount for a service performed by an optometrist under
7 this chapter as the department pays for that service when it is performed by a
8 physician licensed under AS 08.64 if the service is within the scope of the
9 optometrist's occupational license.

10 (b) All of the types of service authorized under an optometrist's occupational
11 license are eligible for payment under this chapter to the same extent that those types
12 of service are eligible for payment when they are performed by a physician licensed
13 under AS 08.64.

14 (c) The department may not use a different classification system for

1 optometrists' services under this chapter than it uses for physician services under this
2 chapter.

3 * **Sec. 2. TRANSITION.** The legislature recognizes that this Act will require the
4 Department of Health and Social Services to adopt new regulations applicable to optometrists'
5 services under AS 47.07. Until new regulations are adopted, the department shall immediately
6 implement this Act by using payment rates and service classifications for optometrists under
7 AS 47.07 that are the same as the payment rates and service classifications used by the
8 department for physicians under AS 47.07.

9 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).