
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 171 (S.64). An act relating to amendments to the scope of practice for optometrists

Subjects: Professions and occupations; health care professionals; Office of Professional Regulation; optometrists

This act creates an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty issued by the Board of Optometry that allows a licensed optometrist who meets specific educational, examination, and demonstrated competency requirements to perform certain surgeries, laser procedures, and injections. It requires an optometrist holding the advanced therapeutic procedures specialty to complete an additional five hours of continuing education in the advanced procedures during each two-year licensing period in addition to the 40 hours already required for all optometrists. The act requires that an optometrist report any adverse event related to an advanced procedure within 30 days following the event. The act also adds two new members to Board of Optometry, one of whom must be an optometrist and one of whom must be an ophthalmologist, and requires that at least one of the four optometrist members of the Board hold the advanced therapeutic procedures specialty by January 1, 2031.

Effective Date: July 1, 2028