



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State

Office of Professional Regulation
89 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402
sos.vermont.gov

James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary
S. Lauren Hibbert, Director

February 16, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Government Operations
From: S. Lauren Hibbert, Director, Office of Professional Regulation

Re: S.158

Dear Committee,

Thank you for hearing from OPR on S.158.

Last week, the Committee asked OPR for a defined list of approved procedures for the expanded scope of practice for optometrists. OPR asked the Committee to include a defined list of procedures in the proposed expanded scope of practice to provide clarification to optometrists and the public. OPR has been in contact with the Vermont Optometric Association (VOA) regarding procedures the VOA would like listed in the bill. Below is the list VOA has requested be included in the bill.

* * *

The scope of a Vermont optometrist who holds a specialty endorsement for the practice of ophthalmic surgery procedures includes the following procedures:

- i) Laser procedures of the anterior segment, the surface of the eye, or adnexa; including,
 - a. laser procedures to create a capsulorhexis prior to cataract surgery;
 - b. laser procedures to treat glaucoma such as laser trabeculoplasty;
 - c. laser procedures to treat narrow angles such as laser iridotomy, or laseriridoplasty;and,
 - d. laser procedures to treat capsular opacification such as YAGcapsulotomy;
- ii) Injections pertaining to the eye and its adnexa, intravenous injections, subcutaneous and intramuscular injections; including,
 - a. injections for the administration of local anesthesia;
 - b. injections to perform fluorescein angiography;
 - c. injections of therapeutics into the eyelid or its adnexa or subconjunctival space;
 - d. injections for anaphylaxis; and,
 - e. injections for vaccination in a public health emergency.
- iii) Removal and restoration of tissue or lesions with low risk of malignancy of the eye and its adnexa; including,
 - a. excision and repair of chalazia;

- b. excision and repair of lesions with low risk of malignancy;
- c. corneal crosslinking, treatment of recurrent corneal erosion; and,
- d. intense pulsed light and radio frequency therapy.

* * *

OPR requests that the recommendations from VOA be modified to state “including, *and limited to...*” prior to the list of procedures in sections (i), (ii), and (iii). This will enable OPR to determine which procedures optometrists holding the specialty endorsement for the practice of ophthalmic surgery procedures are permitted to perform.