

**S.64 – Rep. Stone Medicaid amendment**

... by striking out Sec. 6, effective dates, and inserting in lieu thereof three sections to be

Secs. 6–8 to read as follows:

Sec. 6. 33 V.S.A. § 1901h is added to read:

§ 1901h. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR SERVICES DELIVERED BY

OPTOMETRIST HOLDING ADVANCED THERAPEUTIC

PROCEDURES SPECIALTY

Vermont Medicaid shall cover services that are within the scope of practice of an optometrist holding an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty issued pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 30, subchapter 5 to the same extent that the services would be covered if they were delivered by a physician licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33.

Sec. 7. MEDICAID COVERAGE; STATE PLAN AMENDMENT

The Department of Vermont Health Access shall seek a state plan amendment from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to take effect on July 1, 2028, to allow Vermont’s Medicaid program to provide coverage for services delivered by an optometrist who is a Medicaid participating provider and holds an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty as set forth in 33 V.S.A. § 1901h, as added by this act.

Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) Sec. 7 (Medicaid coverage; state plan amendment) and this section shall take effect on passage.

(b) Sec. 6 (33 V.S.A. § 1901h) shall take effect on the later of July 1, 2028, or approval of the state plan amendment requested pursuant to Sec. 7.

(c) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2028.