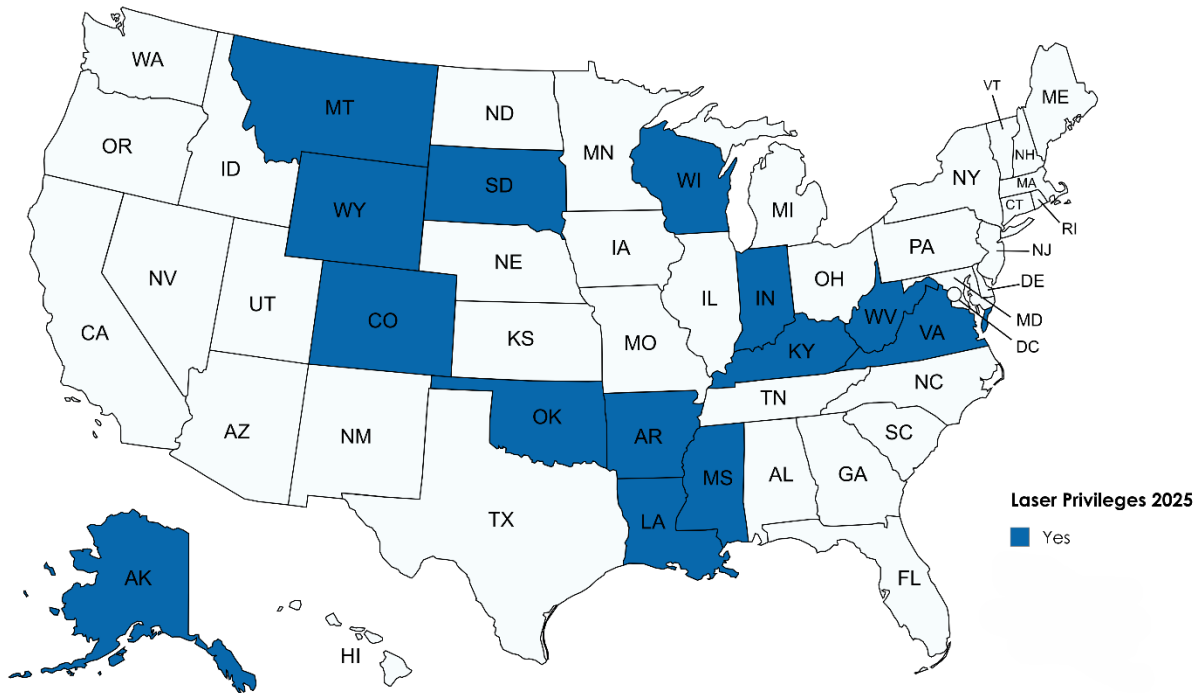


States with Laser Surgical Privileges



Alaska (2017)

True board authority scope that allows for the state optometry board to determine what is within scope. Currently performing injections, YAG, SLT and LPI, and treating lumps and bumps.

Arkansas (passed in 2019, codified in 2020)

Inclusive listing which includes YAG, SLT. Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

Colorado (2022)

Inclusive listing which includes YAG, SLT and LPI. Also allows corneal cross-linking, injections with sutures and treatment of lumps and bumps.

Indiana (AG Opinion 2019)

Open ended statute allowed for state board interpretation that OD's can perform laser surgical procedures. The law has been upheld by an AG opinion.

Kentucky (2011)

Exclusive law which lists those procedures not allowed (excluding retina, LASIK, and PRK). Also gives the state board authority to determine procedures. Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

Louisiana (2013)

Inclusive law which allows for YAG, SLT and LPI. Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

Mississippi (2021)

Inclusive law which allows for YAG. Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

Montana (2025)

Exclusive law which permits all in-office laser and surgical procedures “limited to the anterior segment of the eye” (which currently includes YAG, SLT and PI). Also gives the Montana Board of Optometry the right “to adopt rules relative to and governing the qualifications of applicants for licensure as optometrists.” Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

Oklahoma (1998)

Exclusive law which permits optometrists to perform laser surgery including, but not limited to, YAG, SLT, PRK and PI. Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

South Dakota (2024) Codified Law 36-7-1

Inclusive law which allows intradermal paralytic agent injections, intralesional steroid injections for chalazion, removal of pedunculated skin tags with local anesthesia, and both SLT and YAG laser posterior capsulotomy.

Virginia (2022)

Inclusive law which allows for YAG, SLT and LPI. Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

West Virginia (2025)

§30-8-9. Scope of practice.

(11) A licensee may perform those procedures he or she was taught and trained through schools or colleges of optometry accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, or its successors or equivalents.

(12) A licensee may perform laser procedures as outlined in section [§30-8B-1 et seq.](#) of this code.

§30-8B-2. Definitions.

"Ophthalmic Laser" means any of the commercially available light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation (LASER) devices approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for use on the human eye and adnexa.

"Posterior Capsulotomy" means the ophthalmic laser technique most commonly used to treat the clouding of the eye's posterior lens capsule (PCO) that commonly occurs following cataract surgery.

"Peripheral Iridotomy" means the standard first-line treatment in angle-closure glaucoma and eyes at risk for this condition most commonly treated utilizing ophthalmic lasers.

"Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty" means a simple, yet highly effective laser procedure that reduces the intraocular pressure associated with glaucoma that uses short pulses of low-energy light to target the melanin, or pigment, in specific cells of the affected eye. The surrounding, non-pigmented cells are untouched and undamaged.

Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

Wisconsin (passed in 1990, reviewed in 2021)

Exclusive law which allows for laser procedures. Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.

Wyoming (2021)

Exclusive law, allows YAG, LPI, SLT. Can also perform injections and treat lumps and bumps.