

Senate Bill 221

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Mullis of the 53rd, Kirk of the 13th, Henson of the 41st, McKoon of the 29th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 43-30-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions relative to optometrists, so as to authorize doctors of optometry to administer
3 pharmaceutical agents by injection; to provide for limitations and requirements; to provide
4 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 43-30-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
8 relative to optometrists, is amended by revising subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (2)
9 as follows:

10 "(C) A doctor of optometry shall not ~~may~~ administer any pharmaceutical agent agents
11 related to the diagnosis or treatment of diseases and conditions of the eye and adnexa
12 oculi by injection, except for sub-tenon, retrobulbar, peribulbar, facial nerve block,
13 subconjunctival anesthetic, dermal filler, intravenous injections, intramuscular
14 injections, intraorbital nerve block, intraocular, or botulinum toxin injections, if he or
15 she:

16 (i) Holds a current license or certificate of registration issued by the board and has
17 obtained a certificate showing successful completion of an injectables training
18 program consisting of a minimum of 30 hours approved by the Georgia Composite
19 Medical Board; or

20 (ii) Is enrolled in an injectables training program consisting of a minimum of 30
21 hours approved by the Georgia Composite Medical Board and under the direct
22 supervision of a physician licensed under Chapter 34 of this title and board certified
23 in ophthalmology.

24 (D) Pharmaceutical agents which are used by a doctor of optometry for treatment
25 purposes ~~and administered orally~~ may only be:

26 (i)(I) Nonnarcotic oral analgesics, ~~and~~ hydrocodone administered orally, and
27 Schedule III or Schedule IV controlled substances which are oral analgesics;
28 (II) Used for ocular pain; and
29 (III) Used for no more than 72 hours without consultation with the patient's
30 physician; provided, however, that with respect to hydrocodone, used for no more
31 than 48 hours without consultation with the patient's physician; or
32 (ii) ~~Antibiotics, antivirals, corticosteroids, antifungals, antihistamines, or~~
33 ~~antiglaucoma~~ Other pharmaceutical agents related to the diagnosis or treatment of
34 diseases and conditions of the eye and adnexa oculi except Schedule I or Schedule II
35 controlled substances; ~~provided, however, that a doctor of optometry shall not be~~
36 ~~authorized to administer pharmaceutical agents by injection.~~
37 Doctors of optometry using such pharmaceutical agents shall be held to the same
38 standard of care imposed by Code Section 51-1-27 as would be applied to a physician
39 licensed under Chapter 34 of this title performing similar acts; provided, however, that
40 a doctor of optometry shall not be authorized to treat systemic diseases."

41 **SECTION 2.**

42 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.