

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE

Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 527** HLS 13RS 351
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 24, 2013 1:34 PM	Author: HOFFMAN
Dept./Agy.: DHH/Board of Optometry	Analyst: Jennifer Katzman
Subject: Regulation of optometrists performing ophthalmic surgery	

OPTOMETRISTS EG SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to the practice of optometry and the regulation of such profession

Proposed law allows optometrists to perform ophthalmic surgical procedures and prescribe controlled substances with certain, specific exceptions.

Proposed law also requires the LA State Board of Optometry Examiners (LSBOE) to promulgate regulations for educational and competency criteria for optometrists to perform these procedures.

EXPENDITURES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Medicaid expenditures (SGF & Federal match) are anticipated to decrease by an indeterminable amount to the extent that dual billing for eye exams by both optometrists and ophthalmologists is eliminated. Currently, dual eye exams are required and billed by Medicaid providers when a patient is referred by an optometrist to an ophthalmologist for surgery. With the proposed legislation, only the optometrist will bill Medicaid for the eye exam and permitted surgical procedure without the need for referral to an ophthalmologist and a second billable eye exam. These savings will depend on the number of Medicaid patients seeking treatment from their optometrists and the number of optometrists that opt to perform ophthalmic surgical procedures as authorized by the LSBOE and this legislation. The average Medicaid reimbursement rate for eye exams performed without anesthesia is \$67.97. As such, depending on the number of Medicaid patients going to optometrists newly performing these surgeries, Medicaid would save an average of \$67.97 per patient.

DHH suggests that there will likely be a utilization increase in ophthalmic surgeries by expanding eligibility to a new provider group now that certain procedures can be performed by optometrists. Any utilization increase will result in a corresponding increase in Medicaid expenditures, which works to offset savings generated.

SGR expenditures are anticipated to increase by a nominal amount within the LA State Board of Optometry Examiners (LSBOE) in order to promulgate rules relative to educational and competence criteria for optometrists to perform ophthalmic surgeries as permitted by the legislation. The LFO assumes these costs can be absorbed within the LSBOE's FY 14 budget.

Note: There are approximately 400 optometrists currently licensed by the LSBOE.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F) >= \$500,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S}
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Gregory V. Albrecht
Chief Economist