



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION



Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

LD 1803 Stakeholder Group

Primary Components of Sponsor's Amendment to LD 1803

Section 1: Defines hydrocodone combination product

Section 2: Repeals and replaces “practice of optometry” definition

Section 3: Establishes new definitions

- Diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agent
- Ophthalmic surgery
- Practice of optometry (authorized procedures)
- Ophthalmic surgical procedures excluded from practice of optometry
- Credentialing requirements for surgical and laser procedures

Section 4:

- Directs the Board of Optometry to establish rules to further define the scope of practice
- Authorizes the Board to “adopt rules to further expand the scope of optometry as appropriate. Any such rules are major substantive rules.”
- Authorizes the Board, during a public health emergency, to authorize a licensed optometrist to administer inoculations that would otherwise not be permitted with an optometrist’s scope of practice.

Section 5: Establishes for the Board of Optometry “exclusive authority” to “determine what constitutes the practice of optometry.” States that this chapter may not be construed to permit any agency, board or other entity of this State other than the board to determine what constitutes the practice of optometry. “The board has sole jurisdiction to exercise any other powers and duties of the board established under this chapter.”

Sections 6 & 7: Update formatting to reflect proposed changes.

Section 8: Adds to the Board of Optometry’s power and duties “the authority to issue advisory opinions and declaratory rulings related to this chapter and any rules adopted pursuant to this chapter.”

Section 9: Amends the Board of Optometry’s current rulemaking authority to include requirements for “scope of practice,” and clarifies that scope of practice rules are “major substantive rules.”

Sections 10 & 11: Amend the prescriptive authority of an optometrist who holds a therapeutic advanced glaucoma license to authorize prescribing of “schedule II narcotic agents limited to hydrocodone combination products.”

Section 12: Amends enforcement powers of the Board of Optometry related to the operation of kiosks to require “A dispensing party other than an optometrist with an optometrist-patient relationship [to] forward a copy of the details of a prescription for contact lenses to the optometrist with the optometrist-patient relationship.”

Section 13: Makes a formatting correction.

Section 14: Updates the Board of Optometry’s telehealth rulemaking statute to clarify that the rules are regarding “the provision” of telehealth services and are not limited to telehealth services “by a person licensed under this chapter.”

Section 15: Establishes an effective date of July 1, 2026.