

House Bill 316 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Reeves of the 34th, Meadows of the 5th, Smith of the 134th, and Ehrhart of the 36th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 14-7-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 professional services provided by professional corporations, so as to provide that the practice
3 of medicine and surgery and optometry shall be considered the practice of only one
4 profession for purposes of professional corporations; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 14-7-4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to professional
9 services provided by professional corporations, is amended by revising subsection (a) as
10 follows:

11 "(a) A professional corporation may practice only one profession, but for the purpose of
12 this chapter, (1) the practice of architecture, professional engineering, and land surveying
13 shall be considered the practice of only one profession to the extent that existing laws
14 permit overlapping practices by members of those specific professions not inconsistent
15 with the ethics of the professions involved, and (2) to the extent not inconsistent with the
16 ethics of the professions involved or otherwise prohibited by law, physicians specializing
17 in ophthalmology that are practicing within their scope of practice as established by law
18 may organize and jointly own a professional corporation with optometrists that are
19 practicing within their scope of practice as established by law; provided, however, that
20 nothing in this paragraph shall authorize optometrists to attach the title 'physician' to such
21 optometrists' names or to the name of the professional corporation."

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.