

House Bill 416

By: Representatives Ehrhart of the 36th and Meadows of the 5th

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, intraorbital nerve
13 block, intraocular, or botulinum toxin injections, if he or she:

14 (i) Holds a current license or certificate of registration issued by the board and has
15 obtained a certificate showing successful completion of an injectables training
16 program consisting of a minimum of 30 hours approved by the board; or

17 (ii) Is enrolled in an injectables training program consisting of a minimum of 30
18 hours approved by the board and under the direct supervision of a doctor of optometry
19 licensed or registered under this chapter or a physician licensed under Chapter 34 of
20 this title and board certified in ophthalmology.

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

23 (i)(I) Nonnarcotic oral analgesics, ~~and~~ hydrocodone administered orally, and
24 Schedule III or Schedule IV controlled substances which are oral analgesics;

25 (II) Used for ocular pain; and

26 (III) Used for no more than 72 hours without consultation with the patient's
27 physician; provided, however, that with respect to hydrocodone, used for no more
28 than 48 hours without consultation with the patient's physician; or

29 (ii) ~~Antibiotics, antivirals, corticosteroids, antifungals, antihistamines, or~~
30 ~~antiglaucoma~~ Other pharmaceutical agents related to the diagnosis or treatment of
31 diseases and conditions of the eye and adnexa oculi except Schedule I or Schedule II
32 controlled substances; ~~provided, however, that a doctor of optometry shall not be~~
33 ~~authorized to administer pharmaceutical agents by injection.~~

34 Doctors of optometry using such pharmaceutical agents shall be held to the same
35 standard of care imposed by Code Section 51-1-27 as would be applied to a physician
36 licensed under Chapter 34 of this title performing similar acts; provided, however, that
37 a doctor of optometry shall not be authorized to treat systemic diseases."

38 **SECTION 2.**

39 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.