

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services offered the following substitute to SB 221:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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

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

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

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

(D) Pharmaceutical agents which are used by a doctor of optometry for treatment 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.