

Senate Bill 17

By: Senators Harp of the 29th, Unterman of the 45th, Hooks of the 14th, Mullis of the 53rd, Harbison of the 15th and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 30 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 optometrists, so as to provide for additional pharmaceutical agents which may be used by a  
3 doctor of optometry for treatment purposes; to provide for a standard of care; to repeal  
4 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 30 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to optometrists,  
8 is amended by revising subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2) of Code Section 43-30-1, relating  
9 to definitions, as follows:

10 "(D) Pharmaceutical agents which are used by a doctor of optometry for treatment  
11 purposes and administered orally may only be:

12 (i)(I) Nonnarcotic oral analgesics and Schedule III or Schedule IV controlled  
13 substances which are oral analgesics;

14 ~~(ii)~~(II) Used for ocular pain; and

15 ~~(iii)~~(III) Used for no more than 72 hours without consultation with the patient's  
16 physician; or

17 (ii) Oral and topical antibiotics, antivirals, topical steroids, antifungals,  
18 antihistamines, or antiglaucoma agents related to the diagnosis or treatment of  
19 diseases and conditions of the eye and adnexa oculi except Schedule I or Schedule II  
20 controlled substances. Doctors of optometry using such oral and topical  
21 pharmaceutical agents shall be held to the same standard of care imposed by Code  
22 Section 51-1-27 as would be applied to a physician licensed under Chapter 34 of this  
23 title performing similar acts; provided, however, that a doctor of optometry shall not  
24 be authorized to treat systemic diseases."

- 1
- SECTION 2.
- 2
- All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.