

Senate Bill 221

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Mullis of the 53rd, Kirk of the 13th, Henson of the 41st, McKoon of the 29th and others

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.