

HOUSE BILL NO. 309

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE RUFFRIDGE

Introduced: 2/7/24

Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the practice of optometry; and relating to the delegation of routine**
2 **services of optometry."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 08.72.050 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 08.72.050. Regulations.** The board shall adopt regulations

6 (1) necessary for the proper performance of its duties;

7 (2) governing the applicants and applications for licensing;

8 (3) for the licensing of optometrists;

9 (4) necessary to govern the practice of optometry, including the
10 prescription and use of pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of eye disease;

11 (5) prescribing requirements that a person licensed under this chapter
12 must meet to demonstrate continued professional competency;

13 (6) developing uniform standards for the practice of optometry;

14 **(7) authorizing an optometrist licensed under this chapter to**

1 delegate routine services of optometry to an agent of the optometrist; the
 2 regulations must

3 (A) require that an agent who is not licensed under this
 4 chapter may perform duties delegated under this paragraph only if the
 5 agent meets applicable standards established by the board;

6 (B) prohibit an optometrist from delegating duties related
 7 to pain management and opioid use and addiction; and

8 (C) define the phrase "routine services of optometry." [.]

9 * **Sec. 2.** AS 08.72.110 is amended to read:

10 **Sec. 08.72.110. License required.** (a) Except for the practice of routine
 11 services of optometry delegated under AS 08.72.050(7), a [A] person may not
 12 practice, attempt to practice, or offer to practice optometry without first obtaining a
 13 license from the board.

14 (b) Except for the practice of routine services of optometry delegated
 15 under AS 08.72.050(7), a [A] person not licensed as an optometrist may not fit, sell,
 16 or dispose of or take, receive, or solicit an order for fitting, sale, or disposition of
 17 spectacles, eyeglasses, or lenses for the correction or relief of an optical or visual
 18 defect of the human eye or sell spectacles, eyeglasses, or lenses from house to house,
 19 or in the streets or highways. This chapter does not apply to the sale of toy glasses,
 20 goggles consisting of plano-white or plano-colored lenses or ordinary colored glasses,
 21 or complete ready-made spectacles and eyeglasses sold only as merchandise, or the
 22 sale or repair of eyeglass frames, or repair or replacement of lenses without pretense of
 23 adapting them to the eyes.

24 * **Sec. 3.** AS 08.72.280 is amended to read:

25 **Sec. 08.72.280. Prohibited acts.** A person may not falsely personate a licensed
 26 optometrist, or buy, sell, or fraudulently obtain a license issued to another or advertise
 27 the practice of optometry in violation of regulations of the board. Except for the
 28 practice of routine services of optometry delegated under AS 08.72.050(7),
 29 practicing [PRACTICING] or offering to practice optometry without a license is
 30 sufficient evidence of a violation of this chapter.