

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Telfer, Verger, Morrisette
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/21, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows minor 15 years of age or older to consent to diagnosis or treatment by optometrist without consent of parent or guardian of minor. Allows optometrist to provide diagnosis or treatment to a minor without the consent of a parent or guardian provided they are acting within the scope of practice for an optometrist.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Restriction has resulted in problems providing timely treatment of eye care issues for minors age 15-18
- Consideration of amendment to allow only in emergency, urgent or unplanned situations
- Scope of practice concerns and request for further study during interim

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifies that an optometrist may provide diagnosis or treatment to a minor without the consent of a parent or guardian provided they are acting within the scope of practice for an optometrist.

BACKGROUND: Currently if a person under the age of 18 makes an appointment to see an optometric physician, the doctor or the doctor's staff may not conduct an examination or diagnose or treat the patient without the presence or consent of a parent or guardian. Delays in treatment can prolong the patient's pain, potentially complicate treatment and possibly jeopardize eyesight.

Existing law does allow other primary care providers such as a hospital, doctor, osteopath, nurse practitioner or dentist to diagnose or treat a minor patient without the consent of a parent or guardian through specific exceptions to ORS 109.640.

Senate Bill 19-A allows minors who are at least 15 years of age to consent to diagnosis and treatment by an optometrist, and allows optometrists to provide diagnosis and treatment to patients age 15 and older without parental/guardian consent. Supporters of the measure assert that it will help ensure that a minor who does not have written or verbal consent from a parent or guardian is able to receive immediate attention and treatment.