

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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| Action: | Do Pass |
| Vote: | 5 - 0 - 0 |
| Yeas: | Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | 0 |
| Prepared By: | Rick Berkobien, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 2/18 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows minor 15 years of age or older to consent, without consent of parent or guardian of minor, to diagnosis and treatment by optometrist who is acting within scope of practice for optometrists. Establishes that exception applies when minor is obtaining contact lenses for first time.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current law on health care for minors
- Eye-related emergencies
- Situations when physician would serve minors without parental consent
- Situations when minor may need treatment from an optometrist without first receiving parental consent
- National practice guidelines when providing health care services for minors
- Code of conduct for optometrists

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, if a person under the age of 18 years makes an appointment to see an optometric physician, the provider or provider's staff may not conduct an examination, or diagnose or treat the patient without the presence or consent of a parent or guardian. ORS 109.640 does allow primary care providers such as hospitals, physicians, nurse practitioners and dentists to diagnose or treat minors without the consent of a parent or guardian.

An optometric physician is trained to diagnose signs of ocular, neurological and systemic health problems, and treat vision disorders. An optometrist may be certified to use topical and nontopical therapeutic pharmaceutical agents by the Oregon Board of Optometry, to treat eye diseases and injuries, prescribe therapeutic drugs and perform other procedures such as foreign body removal. Optometrists generally complete a four-year bachelor's degree, complete at least four additional years of optometry college curriculum, and pass national and state exams in order to be eligible for licensure.