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MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Gossage and the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 13, 2024

Subject: **SB 490, Updating certain provisions of the optometry law relating to scope of practice, definitions and credentialing requirements.**

SB 490 amends K.S.A. 65-1501, 65-1501a, 65-1509a, 65-1512 and 75-1504.

Section 1 of the bill amends K.S.A. 65-1501, the scope of practice of optometry, by adding a number of procedures to the scope of practice. In subsection (a)(3), the prescribing, administering and dispensing of pharmaceutical drugs has been amended to include all routes of administration except intraocular injections and the use of medical devices for the examination, diagnosis and treatment of ocular conditions. The scope of optometry has been amended to add the removal of non-perforating foreign bodies from the cornea, conjunctiva, or eyelids; removal of eyelashes, scraping the cornea for diagnostic tests, smears or cultures; the dilation, probing, irrigation or closing the tear drainage structure of the eye; expression of conjunctival follicles or cysts; debridement of the corneal epithelium; incision and curettage of a chalazion; removal and biopsy of skin lesions without known malignancy; laser capsulotomy; laser trabeculoplasty; and laser peripheral iridotomy. The bill also adds that the practice of optometry includes procedures that are not specifically prohibited as being part of the scope of practice and that are within the scope of a licensee's education and training and that are authorized pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the board of optometry.

Subsection (b) specifies that the practice of optometry does not include retinal surgery, penetrating keratoplasty or corneal transplant, administration of surgery under anesthesia, and the remaining items on page two, lines 64-23.

Section 2 of the bill amends K.S.A. 65-1501a, definitions, by removing the definition of "topical pharmaceutical drugs" and "oral pharmaceutical drugs." We've also done some drafting cleanup in the section as well.

Section 3 of the bill amends K.S.A. 65-1509a to require the board of optometry to develop and establish credentialing requirements for a licensee to administer or perform the procedures that were added to the scope of optometry in K.S.A. 65-1501(a)(4).

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Section 4 of the bill amends K.S.A. 65-1512 to state that Article 15 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the optometry law.

Finally, Section 5 of the bill amends K.S.A. 75-1504 and requires the board of optometry to maintain and make available to the public a directory listing the names and address of all optometrists licensed by the board.

If enacted, SB 490 would go into effect on July 1, 2024.