

Senate Fiscal Agency  
P. O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

**SFA****BILL ANALYSIS**

Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
Fax: (517) 373-1986  
TDD: (517) 373-0543

Senate Bill 139 (as enrolled)  
Sponsor: Senator Joanne G. Emmons  
Senate Committee: Health Policy and Senior Citizens  
House Committee: Health Policy

**PUBLIC ACT 151 of 1997**

Date Completed: 2-10-98

**CONTENT**

**The bill amended Part 174 of the Public Health Code, which governs the practice of optometry, to allow an optometrist to use a topically administered antiglaucoma drug; and to require an optometrist to consult with an ophthalmologist when glaucoma is suspected in a patient's diagnosis, or with a physician when an optometrist diagnoses that a patient has acute glaucoma.**

Under Part 174, an optometrist may administer and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents in the course of his or her practice, if he or she has fulfilled certain requirements specified in Part 174 and been certified by the Board of Optometry as qualified to administer and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents. "Therapeutic pharmaceutical agent" means a topically administered prescription drug or other topically administered drug used to treat a defect or abnormal condition, or the effects of a defect or abnormal condition, of the anterior segment of the human eye. The bill provides that a therapeutic pharmaceutical agent also includes a topically administered antiglaucoma drug.

Further, under Part 174, if an optometrist determines that a patient shows signs or symptoms that may be evidence of a disease that the optometrist is not authorized to treat, the optometrist must promptly advise the patient to seek evaluation by an appropriate physician, and not attempt to treat the condition. The bill specifies that when a diagnosis of glaucoma is suspected, the optometrist will have to consult an ophthalmologist for a co-management consultation in order to agree mutually on the diagnosis and initial treatment plan. If the results of treatment do not meet or exceed the treatment target goals within a time frame currently accepted as medical standard of care in the treatment and management of glaucoma, the optometrist must consult further with an ophthalmologist regarding further diagnosis and possible treatment.

The bill also provides that, if an optometrist diagnoses that a patient has acute glaucoma, the optometrist must consult a physician for further diagnosis and possible treatment as soon as possible.

MCL 333.17401 &amp; 333.17432

Legislative Analyst: G. Towne

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill will have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: M. Tyszkiewicz

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.