

One Hundred Second Legislature - First Session - 2011

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB316

Chairperson: Senator Kathy Campbell

Committee: Health and Human Services

Date of Hearing: March 03, 2011

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 316 would add oral medications for treating glaucoma and for inflammation of the eye to an optometrist's present prescriptive authority.

The legislation would create the following exceptions to the present optometry statute's categorical ban on surgery: minor surgical procedures on the eyelids for the removal of skin tags and certain cysts; three types of in-office laser procedures; and the use of injections into the eyelid or tissue surrounding the eye to anesthetize patients for these procedures.

LB 316 would also allow optometrists to gain clinical experience with new optometry procedures, as part of a course conducted by an approved college of optometry, without violating the current approved scope of practice for optometrists.

To be authorized to perform the improved scope of practice, as authorized by LB 316, optometrists would have to complete additional training and education approved by the State Board of Optometry.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Lavon Heidemann