



SB36

Primary Eye Care Modernization Bill

Optometry's first proposal to adjust its scope of practice in 18 years; a bill designed to better serve patients in an ever-changing healthcare landscape.

What **IS** included
in the Primary Eye Care
Modernization
Bill:

- ✓ Allows for very limited non-invasive, non-operating room minor procedures.
 - ✓ Removal of benign lesions like cysts, styes and skin tags.
 - ✓ Suturing of eye lid and periorbital area
- ✓ Minor injections of medications into eye lid and periorbital areas.
- ✓ 3 In-Office Laser Procedures.
 - ✓ Capsulotomy: removal of film that sometimes forms as a complication of cataract surgery.
 - ✓ Selective laser trabeculoplasty: a glaucoma procedure which lowers pressure in the eye.
 - ✓ Peripheral Iridotomy: a procedure to prevent closed angle glaucoma.
- ✓ Updates pharmaceutical regulations to allow for prescribing for all conditions of the eye.
- ✓ Requirement to complete a standardized 32-hour national certification course with written examination.
- ✓ Requirement to demonstrate procedural proficiency consistent with ACGME ophthalmology training and case minimums.
- ✓ Requirement of notification of procedure to patient's health care provider.
- ✓ Aligns Ohio's optometric scope of practice with surrounding states.



What **IS NOT**
included in the
Primary Eye Care
Modernization Bill:

- ✗ No operating room procedures.
 - ✗ No cataract surgery.
 - ✗ No LASIK surgery.
- ✗ Any eye lid procedure that involves the lid margin or needs reconstruction.
- ✗ No suturing of tissue within the eyeball.
- ✗ No suturing if reconstruction required.
- ✗ No injection into the globe of the eye.
- ✗ No vaccinations.
- ✗ No intravenous injections.
- ✗ No procedures on pediatric patients under 18.
- ✗ This bill does NOT take business away from ophthalmologists.
 - ✗ Procedures included in the bill make up only 4% of total procedures performed by ophthalmology.
- ✗ SB36 does not make optometrists ophthalmologists.
 - ✗ Ophthalmologists are highly skilled specialists and needed to perform complex surgeries and manage advanced eye diseases.



Visit [trustedeyecareohio.com](https://www.trustedeyecareohio.com)

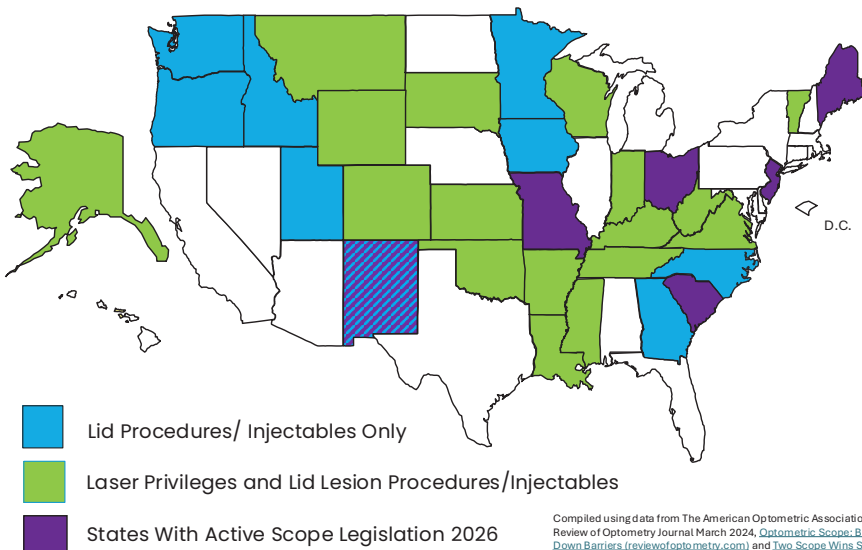


WHY SB36 IS NEEDED FOR OHIO

✓ SB36 Will Help Ohio Retain and Maintain a Well-Trained Eyecare Workforce

- + It has been 18 years since scope of practice has been updated in Ohio.
- + Numerous states (including Ohio's surrounding states) have the procedures in SB36 as part of their scope of practice.
- + 71% of optometry students report that a state's scope of practice is a factor in determining where to practice.
- + Data analysis of the last three graduating classes from the OSU College of Optometry shows that of 197 students, 52% left Ohio.
- + Doctors of Optometry between the ages of 26-35 that designate Ohio as their primary state of practice make up only 19% of Ohio practicing ODs compared to 23% in all other age groups.

The Ohio Optometric Association, The Ohio Vision Professionals Board, The American Optometric Association, and Ohio State College of Optometry data file.



✓ SB36 Will Improve Access to Care and Decrease Wait Times

- + As the population ages, it is estimated that 30% more eye care will be necessary.
- + Ophthalmology is experiencing stagnant growth in new providers with even less practicing in rural areas.
- + As experts in vision and medical eye care, optometrists are well-equipped to fill the need and offer more expertise in eye care than physician extenders.
- + Barriers to care in ophthalmology offices include increased travel time and distance to appointments, loss of work time for caregivers, and excessive wait times.
- + Optometrists practice in 87/88 counties and ophthalmology in only 53.
- + There are 5 ophthalmology residency programs in Ohio with a total of 19 ophthalmologists graduating per year.

Ohio already has the **6th LARGEST** population of older adults in the country

Source: The Ohio Department of Aging | Aging.Ohio.gov



This decade, Ohio's population of adults age 60 and older will grow **28x MORE** than the general population

24 states allow lid lesion procedures

AK, AR, CO, GA, ID, IN, IA, KY, LA, MN, MS, MT, NC, NM, OK, OR, SD, TN, UT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY

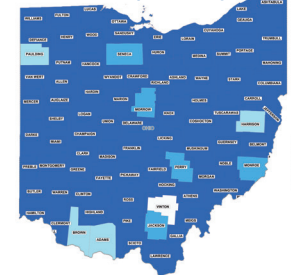
17 states allow optometrists to use lasers.

AK, AR, CO, IN, KS, KY, LA, MS, MT, OK, SD, TN, VA, VT, WI, WVA, WY

6 states with 2025 -2026 expected scope expansion legislation.

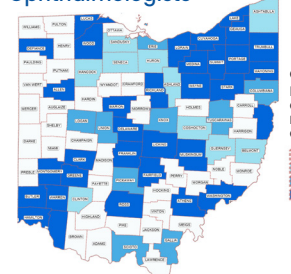
ME, MO, NJ, NM, OH, SC

Doctors Of Optometry



Ohio Access to Eye Care 2024
Doctor of Optometry
Locations/Doctor
Combinations

Ophthalmologists



Ohio Access to Eye Care 2024
Ophthalmology
Locations/Doctor
Combinations



DOCTORS OF OPTOMETRY COMPLETE RIGOROUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- + Doctors of Optometry examine, diagnose, treat and manage all diseases, injuries, refractive conditions and disorders of the eye and visual system, providing expert care and health services to all ages from children to senior citizens.
- + Becoming a Doctor of Optometry requires 8 years of education (bachelor's and 4-year doctoral program) plus an optional subspecialty 1–2-year residency, similar to dentistry and podiatry.
- + Students complete over 10,000 hours of coursework with over 1,800 patient encounters.
- + Licensure in Ohio requires passing all 3 parts of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.
- + Optometric students have been trained in these procedures.
- + Passage of SB36 allows students to perform the procedures under supervision during externships, with training comparable to ophthalmology residents.
- + Doctors of Optometry currently diagnose and treat these conditions as well as provide post-operative management of these procedures.
- + Doctors of Optometry will be required to complete the standardized 32-hour national certification course with successful passage of written examination as well as demonstrate procedural proficiency consistent with the Accreditation Council For Graduate Medical Education ophthalmology training case minimums.
- + The 32-hour certification course builds on existing skills and knowledge of diagnosis, patient selection, and management similar to all physicians, dentists, and podiatrists who take certification courses when they learn new procedures.
- + To date, optometrists have performed over 146,400 laser procedures and have the same low complication rate as ophthalmologists (<3.6%).
- + No state has repealed the optometric scope of practice, and liability insurance rates remain unchanged in states allowing these procedures.

PATIENT SAFETY IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OPTOMETRY IN OHIO

Our profession would NEVER propose a change in Ohio law that would allow optometrists to perform procedures on patients for which they were not properly trained and educated.

The credibility of the profession of optometry, proven by the safe delivery of new services each time a law has been updated, can assure legislators that optometrists will act responsibly in exercising these new privileges as they have done the past 3 times the optometric scope of practice has been updated.

VISIT [TRUSTEDECAREOHIO.COM](https://www.trustedeyecareohio.com) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OHIO DOCTORS OF OPTOMETRY AND SB36