



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State

Office of Professional Regulation
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James C. Condos, Secretary of State
Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary
S. Lauren Hibbert, Director

Dear Licensee,

The Governor has signed H.104 (Act 30), an act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR). The Act 30 provisions relevant to optometry can be viewed [here](#). They become effective July 1, 2019.

- **Endorsements:** Practices formerly authorized by special endorsements are now included in the general scope of optometric practice. Accordingly, special endorsements for the use of therapeutic agents and the management of glaucoma have been eliminated.

A licensed optometrist with appropriate training, education, and experience may:

- Prescribe certain, appropriate pharmaceutical agents for the diagnosis, management and treatment of the eye and adnexa;
- Remove foreign bodies from the eye and adnexa;
- Epilate the eyelashes including by electrolysis;
- Perform punctal dilation and lacrimal irrigation;
- Insert punctal plugs; and
- Manage multiple types of glaucoma.

Optometrists who held the special endorsements may carry on in their usual practices, but no longer need to maintain those endorsements. Optometrists who did not hold the special endorsements are presumed *not* to have elected to establish competence in the practices formerly authorized by the endorsements and should not undertake those practices without appropriate training.

- **Licensure Requirements:** All licensees are now required to meet the license-maintenance requirements formerly applicable to holders of the special endorsements, including CPR certification and 40 hours of continuing education.
- **Study:** OPR has been directed to conduct a study to evaluate the safety and public health needs of enlarging the scope of practice of optometrists to include advanced procedures.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ACT](#)

Statutory amendments may not be reflected in the Vermont Statutes Online for several months.

Complete information on your profession can be found on OPR's website at:

<https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/optometry.aspx>

