

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS,
AND HUMAN SERVICES

BILL NO. 32-0244

Thirty-Second Legislature of the Virgin Islands

July 17, 2018

An Act amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, subchapter VII, section 161 relating to the practice of optometry

PROPOSED BY: Senator Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 27, chapter 1, subchapter VII is amended in section 161 in the following instances:

(a) Subsection (a) is amended:

(1) in paragraphs (1) and (2) by striking the phrase “lacrimal drainage system and”;

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking the phrases “lacrimal drainage system,” and the phrase, “and structures posterior to the iris but including the treatment of iritis”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking the phrase “, or the treatment of glaucoma”.

1 (b) Subsection (b) is amended:

2 (1) in paragraph (3), subparagraph (A) by inserting “lacrimal before
3 “allergens” and striking “alpha adrenergic agonists”, “beta adrenergic blocking
4 agent”, “carbonic anhydrase inhibitors”, “collagen corneal shields”, “epinephrine
5 preparations”, “miotics used for the treatment of glaucoma, “temporary collagen
6 implants”, and in subparagraphs (B) and (C) by striking the phrases “lacrimal
7 drainage system and” and striking the phrase, “and structures posterior to the iris,
8 but including the treatment of iritis”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (4) by striking the phrase “lacrimal drainage system
10 and” the phrase, and “and structures posterior to the iris, but including the
11 treatment of iritis”.

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13 **BILL SUMMARY**

14 The bill amends 27 V.I.C. §161, the definition section for the provisions
15 governing the practice of optometry. The bill amends the description of the practices and
16 procedures that constitute the practice of optometry.

17 Under existing law, the examination and testing of the lacrimal drainage system
18 from the examination of the human eye and the eyelid for diagnosis, treatment,
19 prescription of ophthalmic lenses and other devices. This bill would abolish those
20 restrictions.

21 Under the existing law, the treatment of glaucoma is excluded from the practice of
22 optometry. This bill would remove the exclusion of glaucoma from the practice of
23 optometry.

24 Under existing law alpha adrenergic agonists, beta adrenergic blocking agents,
25 carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, collagen corneal shields, epinephrine preparations, miotics
26 used for the treatment of glaucoma, temporary collagen implants, lacrimal drainage

1 system and structures posterior to the iris are excluded from the definition of “ocular
2 agent-T”. This bill would eliminate that exclusion but would exclude the treatment of
3 iritis from the use of ocular agents.

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6 **BR18-1009/June 29, 2018/YLT**

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