



SB 129

Optometric Surgery Legislation

Ohio is the latest state to face optometry's national effort to gain surgical privileges through legislation as opposed to proper medical education and clinical training. Senate Bill 129 was recently introduced in the Ohio Legislature and would threaten patient safety by adding laser and scalpel surgery to optometry's scope of practice.

If enacted, SB 129 would authorize optometrists to perform:

- YAG capsulotomy
- Laser trabeculoplasty
- Peripheral iridotomy
- Excision of eyelid lesions, cysts, or concretions
- Also, the ambiguous language of the bill creates an opportunity for the Ohio Vision Professionals Board to further water down the requirements to perform surgery as it sees fit.

What is the Optometric Association claiming? (and why not true)

- ✗ **Improves Access** → Optometrist doing these procedures will not help with access to care. No patients in Ohio are more than 30-45 minute drive from an ophthalmologist.
- ✗ **More Efficient Care** → Actually, care would be made less efficient by creating duplicative and unnecessary test and services.
- ✗ **Maintain Well-Trained Workforce** → There is no data to suggest Optometrists are leaving or not coming to Ohio due to not being able to do these procedures. There are actually more Optometrists per capita today in Ohio than ten years ago.

What can Ohio Ophthalmologists do to help?

GIVE
to the Ohio Medical
Eye PAC.

Visit:
ohioeye.org/donate
Or text:
OMEPAC to 41444

CONTACT
OOS if you're
available to meet
with your local
legislator.

Email:
advocacy@ohioeye.org

RESPOND
to Calls to Action
when you receive
them from the OOS
and AAO and contact
your legislator.

ENGAGE
with your colleagues
in Ophthalmology
to inform and educate
them on these helpful
ways to get involved.