

IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE OF _____

An Act

Concerning the Diagnosis and Treatment of Glaucoma by Optometrists

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of _____, represented in the General
2 Assembly:

3 **Section 1. Title.** This Act shall be known and may be cited as the " Act Regulating the
4 Diagnosis and Treatment of Glaucoma."

5 **Section 2. Purpose.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

6 (a) Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness in the United States today.

7 (b) Glaucoma affects millions of Americans and should not be treated by
8 inadequately trained practitioners or trivialized in the need for its detection and
9 treatment.

10 (c) The best defense against glaucoma is early detection and treatment by a trained
11 ophthalmologist who specializes in eye and vision care.

12 (d) Optometrists do not undergo adequate training in fundamental areas, including
13 pharmacology, to permit them to detect and treat glaucoma.

14 **Section 3. Definitions.**

15 (a) "Optometrist" means any person who, following formal and recognized training
16 in the art and science of optometry has received a doctor of optometry degree
17 from an accredited institution and is qualified to seek or has acquired a license to
18 practice the profession of optometry.

1 (b) “Optometry” means a primary health care profession whose practitioners are
2 engaged in the evaluation of disorders of the human eye and the examination and
3 treatment of disorders permitted under this Act.

4 **Section 4. Requirements.**

5 (a) If during the course of examining a patient, an optometrist determines signs of
6 disease, the optometrist shall refer the patient to a medical doctor or doctor of
7 osteopathy.

8 (b) No optometrist licensed in this state shall be permitted to treat glaucoma.

9 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective immediately upon being
10 enacted into law.

11 **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act is held by a court to be invalid,
12 such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Act, and to this end the
13 provisions of this Act are hereby declared severable.