



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 153 permits a doctor of optometry to administer pharmaceutical agents by injection if he or she holds a current license or certificate showing successful completion of an injectables training program or is currently enrolled in such a course and supervised by a certified ophthalmologist; and

WHEREAS: Such an injectables training program must be sponsored by an appropriately credentialed school or college and approved by the board of optometry; and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 153 was intended to improve access to treatment and the public health of Georgians, and administration of injectables containing pharmaceutical agents is medical in nature; and

WHEREAS: The Department of Public Health is charged with safeguarding the public health of the people of this state and is empowered to employ all legal means appropriate to that end, including provision of consultant services to agencies and departments of this state in medical programs, O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-4.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

ORDERED: That the Department of Public Health, by and through its Commissioner and State Health Officer, shall provide guidance to the board of optometry as to appropriate curriculum to be included in the injectables training required by SB 153, in order to protect the public health of the people of this state.

This 9th day of May, 2017.

Nathan Deal

Governor

Senate Bill 153

By: Senators Brass of the 28th, Mullis of the 53rd, Watson of the 1st, Hill of the 4th, Henson of the 41st and others

AS PASSED

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 43-30-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 definitions relative to optometrists, so as to authorize doctors of optometry to administer
3 pharmaceutical agents by injection; to provide for limitations and requirements; to provide
4 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 43-30-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to definitions
8 relative to optometrists, is amended by revising subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (2)
9 as follows:

10 "(C) A doctor of optometry shall not may administer any pharmaceutical agent agents
11 related to the diagnosis or treatment of diseases and conditions of the eye and adnexa
12 oculi by injection, except for sub-tenon, retrobulbar, peribulbar, facial nerve block,
13 subconjunctival anesthetic, dermal filler, intravenous injections, intramuscular
14 injections, intraorbital nerve block, intraocular, or botulinum toxin injections, if he or
15 she:

16 (i) Holds a current license or certificate of registration issued by the board and has
17 obtained a certificate showing successful completion of an injectables training
18 program, sponsored by a school or college of optometry credentialed by the United
19 States Department of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation,
20 consisting of a minimum of 30 hours approved by the board; or

21 (ii)(I) Is enrolled in an injectables training program, sponsored by a school or college
22 of optometry credentialed by the United States Department of Education and the
23 Council on Postsecondary Accreditation, in order to fulfill the requirements of such
24 training program consisting of a minimum of 30 hours approved by the board; and
25 (II) Is under the direct supervision of a physician licensed under Chapter 34 of this
26 title and board certified in ophthalmology.

27 (D) Pharmaceutical agents which are used by a doctor of optometry for treatment
 28 purposes ~~and administered orally~~ may only be:

29 (i)(I) Nonnarcotic oral analgesics, ~~and~~ hydrocodone administered orally, and
 30 Schedule III or Schedule IV controlled substances which are oral analgesics;

31 (II) Used for ocular pain; and

32 (III) Used for no more than 72 hours without consultation with the patient's
 33 physician; provided, however, that with respect to hydrocodone, used for no more
 34 than 48 hours without consultation with the patient's physician; or

35 (ii) ~~Antibiotics, antivirals, corticosteroids, antifungals, antihistamines, or~~
 36 ~~antiglaucoma~~ Other pharmaceutical agents related to the diagnosis or treatment of
 37 diseases and conditions of the eye and adnexa oculi except Schedule I or Schedule II
 38 controlled substances; ~~provided, however, that a doctor of optometry shall not be~~
 39 ~~authorized to administer pharmaceutical agents by injection.~~

40 Doctors of optometry using such pharmaceutical agents shall be held to the same
 41 standard of care imposed by Code Section 51-1-27 as would be applied to a physician
 42 licensed under Chapter 34 of this title performing similar acts; provided, however, that
 43 a doctor of optometry shall not be authorized to treat systemic diseases."

44 **SECTION 2.**

45 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.