

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB213

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Robinson

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Optometrists; allowed to perform laser surgery if certified by Board of Optometry.

5. Summary: Allows an optometrist who has received a certification to perform laser surgery from the Board of Optometry (the Board) to perform certain types of laser surgery of the eye and directs the Board to issue a certification to perform laser surgery to any optometrist who submits evidence satisfactory to the Board that he (i) is certified by the Board to prescribe for and treat diseases or abnormal conditions of the human eye and its adnexa with therapeutic pharmaceutical agents pursuant to Code requirements and (ii) has satisfactorily completed such didactic and clinical training programs provided by an accredited school or college of optometry that includes training in the use of lasers for the medically appropriate and recognized treatment of the human eye as the Board may require.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The provisions of the bill, as amended, would create an additional workload on the Board of Optometry (the Board) to certify optometrists. The board would see an increase in licensing and requests to receive and assess documentation of qualification for such certification. The inclusion of laser surgery may result in additional complaints that would have to be investigated and possibly adjudicated. The Board shall also include provisions for the development of regulations, protocols, and implement a quality assurance review process which would require the involvement of subject matter experts. Any increase in workload shall be estimated and factored into the costs for certification of optometrists in certain laser procedures. Revenue derived from fees would cover any additional costs for the Department and the Board.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Health Professions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB375 is a companion bill.