



**Family Eye Health**  
& CONTACT LENS CENTER  
*Vision For a Lifetime*

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The Honorable Donna Bailey and Kristi Mathieson, HCIFS Committee members, Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of LD 1803. I am Dr. Sheridan Gove, owner of Family Eye Health in Lewiston.

In other states that have passed expanded-scope laws similar to what is proposed in LD 1803, they required optometrists to complete an advanced proctored procedure certification course. This certification course is to reacquaint doctors with previously taught procedures and protocols, not teach these skills for the first time. Completing optometry school ensures optometrists already have the knowledge, skills, and training to perform lasers and injections and that skill certification is formalized in this advanced proctored certification course. Doctors of Optometry already provide pre- and post-operative care including the management of complications to all the procedures in LD1803 and have been doing so since the 1990s. Again, this certification course reenforces the didactic and clinical components of laser treatments taught at all schools of optometry over four years of optometry school. Data shows that procedures have been performed safely by optometrists with over 146,000 procedures since the 1990s.

The Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry is an accredited body authorized to certify this advanced proctored procedure certification course. They have visited Maine twice and have already certified seventy optometrists here in Maine. Again, these advanced procedures are rooted in the thousands of hours taught in optometry school, not just this advanced procedure course. This certification process is similar to verifying skills in other practice modalities with the advancement of new technology.

The Maine State Board of Optometry will require a certification course to be completed as part of the credentialing process for optometrists who choose to provide these procedures, regardless of whether doctors are from out of state or in-state. The current certification process is working safely and effectively based on data from other states where Optometrists are already providing these services. The Maine State Board of Optometry will also look at the rules and regulations of other states that have demonstrated safety and efficacy when optometrists are performing these laser procedures and set clear guardrails.

We propose that for optometrists in Maine to perform these procedures they must:

- Complete Advanced Procedures Training Course
- Perform the following number of laser eye procedures on live humans under the direct supervision of an eye care provider who is licensed to perform the procedures before they can be performed independently.
  - o 5 Laser Capsulotomy (YAG)
  - o 5 Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)
  - o 4 Laser Peripheral Iridotomies (PI)



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*These requirements mirror those established by the **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)** for ophthalmology residents.*

**Alternate Qualification:**

o Graduates from accredited colleges of optometry (2025 onward) who passed the National Board of Examiners in Optometry certification exam.

**Reporting Requirements:**

o Any adverse outcomes will be reported to the Maine State Optometry Board

Optometrists in Maine will still need to continue meeting continuing education requirements to maintain a license. Currently Maine requires 25 CE hours every year. Thank you for your time and support of LD 1803.