

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**

LCB File No. R045-15

September 15, 2015

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §1, NRS 636.125 and 636.2891.

A REGULATION relating to optometry; revising provisions governing the treatment of persons diagnosed with glaucoma; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes an optometrist to treat persons diagnosed with glaucoma only if the optometrist has been issued a certificate by the Nevada State Board of Optometry to do so. (NRS 636.2891) To obtain such a certificate, the optometrist must have treated at least 15 persons who were diagnosed with glaucoma in consultation with an ophthalmologist for at least 12 consecutive months. (NRS 636.2893) Existing regulations require an optometrist who treats persons for glaucoma in consultation with an ophthalmologist to conduct an optometric examination of each such patient at least once every 4 months for not less than 1 year. (NAC 636.290) This regulation: (1) makes explicit the duty of such an optometrist to develop a course of treatment for each such patient in consultation with the ophthalmologist; and (2) requires the optometrist to conduct one or more optometric examinations of the patient at the times set forth in the course of treatment.

Section 1. NAC 636.290 is hereby amended to read as follows:

636.290 1. An optometrist who treats persons for glaucoma in consultation with an ophthalmologist pursuant to NRS 636.2891, 636.2893 and 636.2895 shall:

- (a) ~~Conduct an optometric examination~~ *Establish a course of treatment for the patient in accordance with the provisions of this section;*
- (b) *Over a period of not less than 1 year, conduct one or more optometric examinations* of the patient at ~~least once every 4 months for not less than 1 year;~~

~~—(b)~~ *times set forth in the course of treatment;*

(c) Provide written records of each examination of a patient and the treatment to the consulting ophthalmologist; and

~~{(e)}~~ (d) Refer the patient to an ophthalmologist for further examination or treatment if the ophthalmologist determines, after reviewing the written records, that such a referral is necessary.

2. Within 30 days after a consulting ophthalmologist receives the records of an optometric examination and a course of treatment from an optometrist, the consulting ophthalmologist shall notify the optometrist in writing as to whether the consulting ophthalmologist agrees to the course of treatment outlined by the optometrist.

3. During the period before an optometrist is certified to treat persons diagnosed with glaucoma, the optometrist shall not treat any patient found to have any of the conditions or complications set forth in NRS 636.2891 which require referral of such patients to an ophthalmologist.

4. The records of each patient created as a result of treatment provided by an optometrist in accordance with the provisions of this section and NRS 636.2891:

(a) Must be retained by the optometrist for not less than 5 years as required by NRS 629.051; and

(b) Are subject to examination by the Board.