



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: S. 0393 Introduced on February 26, 2025
Subject: Optometrists
Requestor: Senate Medical Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Tipton
Impact Date: August 4, 2025

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill authorizes the Board of Examiners in Optometry (Board) to issue restricted volunteer licenses to individuals who meet certain requirements and practice within specified limitations and updates other sections to include necessary references of restricted volunteer licenses. This bill also updates relevant definitions to the field and practice of optometry. The bill further clarifies qualifications for the Board, allows the Board to approve equivalent examinations for optometrists from other states who seek licensure, and requires the Board to verify education and competency requirements for licensed optometrists. This bill also updates provisions regarding optometrists' ability to prescribe and dispense certain medications.

The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (LLR) does not anticipate the bill will alter the primary responsibilities of the agency or the Board. LLR further anticipates that the expenditure impact to implement the provisions of the bill will be minimal and can be managed within existing appropriations.

This bill does not prohibit the Board from imposing a fee for a restricted volunteer license. However, LLR does not anticipate the Board will charge a fee, which is consistent with the issuance of volunteer licenses for other professions. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on Other Funds revenue for LLR.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 26, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill authorizes the Board to issue restricted volunteer licenses to individuals who meet certain requirements and practice within specified limitations and updates other sections to include necessary references of restricted volunteer licenses. This bill also updates relevant definitions to the field and practice of optometry. This bill further clarifies qualifications for the Board, allows the Board to approve equivalent examinations for optometrists from other states who seek licensure, and requires the Board to verify education and competency requirements for licensed optometrists. This bill also updates provisions regarding optometrists' ability to prescribe and dispense certain medications.

LLR does not anticipate the bill will alter the primary responsibilities of the agency or the Board. LLR further anticipates that, although the Board is unable to estimate how many restricted volunteer licenses may be issued as a result of this bill, the expenditure impact will be minimal and can be managed within existing appropriations. For reference, there are currently 1,001 actively licensed optometrists in South Carolina.

State Revenue

This bill authorizes the Board to issue restricted volunteer licenses to individuals who meet certain requirements and practice within specified limitations and updates other sections to include necessary references of restricted volunteer licenses. This bill does not prohibit the Board from imposing a fee for a restricted volunteer license. However, LLR does not anticipate the Board will charge a fee, which is consistent with the issuance of volunteer licenses for other professions. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on Other Funds revenue for LLR.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director