1	OPTOMETRY LICENSING ACT AMENDMENTS
2	2000 GENERAL SESSION
3	STATE OF UTAH
4	Sponsor: L. Alma Mansell
5	AN ACT RELATING TO OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS; IMPOSING DISCLOSURE
6	REQUIREMENTS ON HEALTH INSURERS WHO OFFER VISION BENEFITS; INCLUDING
7	OPTOMETRISTS IN THE LIST OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS COVERED BY HEALTH
8	INSURANCE AND THE GOOD SAMARITAN ACT; PERMITTING A CONTACT LENS
9	PRESCRIPTION TO BE GIVEN VERBALLY AND SPECIFYING THE COMPONENTS OF
10	SUCH A PRESCRIPTION; ESTABLISHING A GENERAL EXEMPTION FROM LICENSURE
11	FOR CONTACT LENS SELLERS AND THE MANNER FOR FILLING PRESCRIPTIONS
12	BASED ON NOTIFICATION; CLARIFYING THE EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS WHO FIT
13	CONTACT LENSES; REQUIRING AN OPTOMETRIST TO PROVIDE PRESCRIPTION
14	CONTACT LENS TO A PATIENT AND A SELLER OF CONTACT LENSES; LIMITING THE
15	LIABILITY OF AN OPTOMETRIST FOR PROVIDING A PRESCRIPTION; AND MAKING
16	TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.
17	This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:
18	AMENDS:
19	31A-22-613, as last amended by Chapter 38, Laws of Utah 1996
20	58-13-2, as last amended by Chapter 288, Laws of Utah 1998
21	58-13-3, as last amended by Chapter 288, Laws of Utah 1998
22	58-16a-102, as last amended by Chapter 13, Laws of Utah 1997
23	58-16a-305, as renumbered and amended by Chapter 13, Laws of Utah 1997
24	58-16a-306, as enacted by Chapter 13, Laws of Utah 1997
25	58-16a-501, as enacted by Chapter 13, Laws of Utah 1997
26	58-16a-502, as enacted by Chapter 13, Laws of Utah 1997
27	58-16a-503, as renumbered and amended by Chapter 13, Laws of Utah 1997

28	58-16a-601, as renumbered and amended by Chapter 13, Laws of Utah 1997
29	58-17a-305, as enacted by Chapter 247, Laws of Utah 1996
30	ENACTS:
31	58-16a-801 , Utah Code Annotated 1953
32	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
33	Section 1. Section 31A-22-613 is amended to read:
34	31A-22-613. Permitted provisions for disability insurance policies.
35	The following provisions may be contained in a disability insurance policy, but if they are
36	in that policy, they shall conform to at least the following minimum requirements for the
37	policyholder:
38	(1) Any provision respecting change of occupation may provide only for a lower maximum
39	benefit payment and for reduction of loss payments proportionate to the change in appropriate
40	premium rates, if the change is to a higher rated occupation, and this provision shall provide for
41	retroactive reduction of premium rates from the date of change of occupation or the last policy
42	anniversary date, whichever is the more recent, if the change is to a lower rated occupation.
43	(2) Section 31A-22-405 applies to misstatement of age in disability policies, with the
44	appropriate modifications of terminology.
45	(3) Any policy which contains a provision establishing, as an age limit or otherwise, a date
46	after which the coverage provided by the policy is not effective, and if that date falls within a
47	period for which a premium is accepted by the insurer or if the insurer accepts a premium after that
48	date, the coverage provided by the policy continues in force, subject to any right of cancellation,
49	until the end of the period for which the premium was accepted. This Subsection (3) does not
50	apply if the acceptance of premium would not have occurred but for a misstatement of age by the
51	insured.
52	(4) Any provision dealing with preexisting conditions shall be consistent with Subsections
53	31A-22-605(9)(a) and 31A-22-609(2), and any applicable rule adopted by the commissioner.
54	(5) (a) If an insured is otherwise eligible for maternity benefits, a policy may not contain
55	language which requires an insured to obtain any additional preauthorization or preapproval for
56	customary and reasonable maternity care expenses or for the delivery of the child after an initial
57	preauthorization or preapproval has been obtained from the insurer for prenatal care. A
58	requirement for notice of admission for delivery is not a requirement for preauthorization or

59 preapproval, however, the maternity benefit may not be denied or diminished for failure to provide 60 admission notice. The policy may not require the provision of admission notice by only the 61 insured patient. 62 (b) This Subsection (5) does not prohibit an insurer from: (i) requiring a referral before maternity care can be obtained; 63 64 (ii) specifying a group of providers or a particular location from which an insured is 65 required to obtain maternity care; or 66 (iii) limiting reimbursement for maternity expenses and benefits in accordance with the 67 terms and conditions of the insurance contract so long as such terms do not conflict with 68 Subsection (5)(a). 69 (6) An insurer may only represent that a policy: 70 (a) offers a vision benefit if the policy: 71 (i) charges a premium for the benefit; and (ii) provides reimbursement for materials or services provided under the policy; and 72 73 (b) covers laser vision correction, whether photorefractive keratectomy, laser assisted 74 in-situ keratomelusis, or related procedure, if the policy: (i) charges a premium for the benefit; and 75 76 (ii) the procedure is at least a partially covered benefit. 77 Section 2. Section **58-13-2** is amended to read: 78 58-13-2. Emergency care rendered by licensee. 79 A person licensed under Title 58, Occupations and Professions, to practice as any of the 80 following health care professionals, who is under no legal duty to respond, and who in good faith 81 renders emergency care at the scene of an emergency gratuitously and in good faith, is not liable 82 for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by the person in rendering the emergency 83 care: 84 (1) osteopathic physician: 85 (2) physician and surgeon; 86 (3) naturopath; 87 (4) dentist or dental hygienist;

(5) chiropractic physician;

(6) physician assistant; [or]

88 89

- 91 [(7)] (8) nurse licensed under Section 58-31b-301.
- 92 Section 3. Section **58-13-3** is amended to read:

58-13-3. Qualified immunity -- Health professionals -- Charity care.

- (1) (a) The Legislature finds many residents of this state do not receive medical care and preventive health care because they lack health insurance or because of financial difficulties or cost. The Legislature also finds that many physicians, charity health care facilities, and other health care professionals in this state would be willing to volunteer medical and allied services without compensation if they were not subject to the high exposure of liability connected with providing these services.
- (b) The Legislature therefore declares that its intention in enacting this section is to encourage the provision of uncompensated volunteer health care in charity care settings in exchange for a limitation on liability for the health care facilities and health care professionals who provide those volunteer services.
 - (2) As used in this section:
- (a) "Health care facility" means any clinic or hospital, church, or organization whose primary purpose is to sponsor, promote, or organize uncompensated health care services for people unable to pay for health care services.
- (b) "Health care professional" means individuals licensed under Title 58, Occupations and Professions, as physicians and surgeons, osteopaths, podiatrists, optometrists, chiropractors, dentists, dental hygienists, registered nurses, certified nurse midwives, and other nurses licensed under Section 58-31b-301.
 - (c) "Remuneration or compensation":
- (i) (A) means direct or indirect receipt of any payment by the physician and surgeon, health care facility, other health care professional, or organization, on behalf of the patient, including payment or reimbursement under medicare or medicaid, or under the state program for the medically indigent on behalf of the patient; and
- (B) compensation, salary, or reimbursement to the health care professional from any source for the health care professional's services or time in volunteering to provide uncompensated health care; and
- (ii) does not mean any grant or donation to the health care facility used to offset direct

121 costs associated with providing the uncompensated health care such as medical supplies or drugs.

- (3) A health care professional who provides health care treatment at a health care facility is not liable in a medical malpractice action if:
- (a) the treatment was within the scope of the health care professional's license under this title;
- (b) neither the health care professional nor the health care facility received compensation or remuneration for the treatment;
- (c) the acts or omissions of the health care professional were not grossly negligent or willful and wanton; and
- (d) prior to rendering services, the health care professional disclosed in writing to the patient, or if a minor, to the patient's parent or legal guardian, that the health care professional is providing the services without receiving remuneration or compensation and that in exchange for receiving uncompensated health care, the patient consents to waive any right to sue for professional negligence except for acts or omissions which are grossly negligent or are willful and wanton.
- (4) A health care facility which sponsors, promotes, or organizes the uncompensated care is not liable in a medical malpractice action for acts and omissions if:
 - (a) the health care facility meets the requirements in Subsection (3)(b);
- (b) the acts and omissions of the health care facility were not grossly negligent or willful and wanton; and
- (c) the health care facility has posted, in a conspicuous place, a notice that in accordance with this section the health care facility is not liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions except for those acts or omissions that are grossly negligent or are willful and wanton.
- (5) Immunity from liability under this section does not extend to the use of general anesthesia or care that requires an overnight stay in a general acute or specialty hospital licensed under Title 26, Chapter 21, Health Care Facility Licensing and Inspection Act.
 - Section 4. Section **58-16a-102** is amended to read:
- **58-16a-102.** Definitions.

- In addition to the definitions in Section 58-1-102, as used in this chapter:
- 150 (1) "Board" means the Optometrist Licensing Board created in Section 58-16a-201.
- 151 (2) "Contact lens" means any lens that:

132	(a) has a spherical, cymhurical, or prismatic power of curvature;
153	(b) is made pursuant to a current prescription; and
154	(c) is intended to be worn on the surface of the eye.
155	(3) (a) "Contact lens prescription" means a written or verbal order for contact lenses that
156	includes:
157	[(a)] (i) the commencement date [written] of the prescription;
158	[(b)] (ii) the base curve, power, diameter, material or brand name, and expiration date;
159	[(c) the quantity of lenses if other than one per eye; and]
160	[(d) the signature of the licensed optometrist or physician prescribing the contact lenses.]
161	(iii) for a written order, the signature of the prescribing optometrist or physician; and
162	(iv) for a verbal order, a record maintained by the recipient of:
163	(A) the name of the prescribing optometrist or physician; and
164	(B) the date when the prescription was issued or ordered.
165	(b) A prescription may include:
166	(i) a limit on the quantity of lenses that may be ordered under the prescription if:
167	(A) the prescription is for more than one contact per eye; or
168	(B) required for medical reasons documented in the patient's files; and
169	(ii) the expiration date of the prescription, which may not be less than one year from the
170	commencement date, unless documented medical reasons require continuous monitoring, nor more
171	than two years.
172	(c) A prescription shall be valid for two years if the prescription does not include an
173	expiration date.
174	(4) "Contact lens prescription verification" means a written request from a person who
175	sells contact lenses that:
176	(a) is sent to the prescribing optometrist or physician; and
177	(b) seeks the confirmation of the accuracy of a patient's prescription.
178	[(4)] (5) "Eye and its adnexa" means the human eye and all structures situated within the
179	orbit, including the conjunctiva, lids, lashes, and lacrimal system.
180	[(5)] (6) "Fitting of a contact lens" means:
181	(a) the using of a keratometer to measure the human eye;
182	(b) utilizing refractive data provided by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist; and

183	(c) trial fitting of contact lenses, which includes a period of time for evaluation for fit and
184	performance, to determine a tentative contact lens prescription for a patient if the patient:
185	(i) has not worn contact lenses before; or
186	(ii) has changed to a different type or base curve.
187	[(6)] (7) "Laser surgery" means surgery in which human tissue is cut, burned, or vaporized
188	by means of laser or ionizing radiation.
189	[(7)] (8) "Ophthalmic lens" means any lens used to treat the eye and that:
190	(a) has a spherical, cylindrical, or prismatic power;
191	(b) is made pursuant to an unexpired prescription; and
192	(c) is intended to be used in eyeglasses or spectacles.
193	[(8)] (9) "Optometric assistant" means an unlicensed individual:
194	(a) working under the direct and immediate supervision of a licensed optometrist; and
195	(b) engaged in specific tasks assigned by the licensed optometrist in accordance with the
196	standards and ethics of the profession.
197	[(9)] (10) "Optometrist" or "optometric physician" means an individual licensed under this
198	chapter.
199	[(10)] (11) "Optometry" and "practice of optometry" mean any one or any combination of
200	the following practices:
201	(a) examination of the human eye and its adnexa to detect and diagnose defects or
202	abnormal conditions;
203	(b) determination or modification of the accommodative or refractive state of the human
204	eye or its range or power of vision by administration and prescription of pharmaceutical agents or
205	the use of diagnostic instruments;
206	(c) prescription, ordering, administration, or adaptation of ophthalmic lenses, contact
207	lenses, ophthalmic devices, pharmaceutical agents, laboratory tests, or ocular exercises to diagnose
208	and treat diseases, defects, or other abnormal conditions of the human eye and its adnexa; [or]
209	(d) display of any advertisement, circular, sign, or device offering to:
210	(i) examine the eyes;
211	(ii) fit glasses or contact lenses; or
212	(iii) adjust frames; [or]
213	(iv) duplicate, replace, or accept for duplication or replacement any ophthalmic lens or

214	contact lens;]
215	(e) removal of a foreign body from the eye or its adnexa, that is not deeper than the
216	anterior [one-half] 1/2 of the cornea;
217	(f) consultation regarding the eye and its adnexa with other appropriate health care
218	providers, including referral to other appropriate health care providers; and
219	(g) a person, not licensed as an optometrist, directing a licensee under this chapter to
220	withhold or alter the eye care services the licensee has ordered.
221	[(11)] (12) "Pharmaceutical agent" means any diagnostic or therapeutic drug or
222	combination of drugs that has the property of assisting in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, or
223	mitigation of abnormal conditions or symptoms of the eye and its adnexa.
224	[(12)] (13) "Prescription drug" has the same definition as in Section 58-17a-102.
225	[(13)] (14) "Unexpired" means a prescription that was issued:
226	(a) not more than two years prior to presentation of the prescription for an ophthalmic lens
227	[or lenses]; or
228	(b) in accordance with Subsection (3)(a)(iii) for a contact lens.
229	Section 5. Section 58-16a-305 is amended to read:
230	58-16a-305. License Exemptions.
231	In addition to the exemptions from licensure in Section 58-1-307, the following persons
232	may engage in acts included in the definition of the practice of optometry subject to the stated
233	circumstances and limitations without being licensed under this chapter:
234	(1) a person who sells [eyeglasses] contact lenses on prescription provided by a person
235	authorized under state law to practice either optometry or medicine and surgery if the person
236	complies with Section 58-16a-801;
237	(2) a person who sells eyeglasses or spectacles as articles of merchandise or who fabricates
238	them from a prescription if the person:
239	(a) [he] does so in the ordinary course of trade from a permanently located and established
240	place of business;
241	(b) [he] does not traffic or attempt to traffic upon assumed skill in testing the eye and
242	adapting lenses according to the test;
243	(c) [he] does not duplicate, replace, or accept for replacement any ophthalmic lens [or
244	lenses], except in the case of an emergency[, unless he is an exclusive wholesale optical

245	establishment];
246	(d) [he] does not use in the testing of the eyes any lenses or instruments other than the
247	lenses actually sold; and
248	(e) [he] does not give or offer eyeglasses or spectacles as premiums as defined in Section
249	<u>13-26-2;</u> and
250	(3) a person who [sells] fits contact lenses under the following conditions:
251	(a) he has a current certification from both the American Board of Opticianry and the
252	National Contact Lens Examiners;
253	(b) he does not give or offer contact lenses as premiums;
254	(c) he does not perform a refraction, over-refraction, or attempt to traffic upon assumed
255	skill in testing the eye;
256	(d) he operates in the ordinary course of trade from a permanently located and established
257	place of business;
258	(e) he performs the work involved in fitting contact lenses himself and does not delegate
259	the contact lens fitting to any other individual who is not qualified under this Subsection (3);
260	(f) he does not use in the testing of the eye any lenses or instruments other than the lenses
261	he actually will sell;
262	[(f)] (g) he provides services only to a patient who:
263	(i) presents an unexpired contact lens prescription; or
264	(ii) has had an eye examination within the prior six months by an optometrist or
265	ophthalmologist meeting the requirements under Section 58-16a-306; [and]
266	[(g)] (h) he maintains a copy of the patient's contact lens prescription for not less than
267	seven years[-];
268	(i) he enters into a written agreement with an optometrist or an ophthalmologist before
269	July 1, 2000, to fit contact lenses prescribed by that optometrist or ophthalmologist;
270	(j) he fits contact lenses for at least two years under the direct supervision of the
271	optometrist or ophthalmologist identified in Subsection (3)(i) before July 1, 2000, as documented
272	in the written agreement; and
273	(k) the optometrist or ophthalmologist described in Subsection (3)(i):
274	(i) ensures that the final contact lens is accurate;
275	(ii) presents a written copy of the prescription to the person fitting the contact lens; and

276	(iii) ensures that a copy of the prescription is provided to the patient, except as provided
277	in Section 58-16a-306.
278	Section 6. Section 58-16a-306 is amended to read:
279	58-16a-306. Contact lens prescription Qualifications.
280	(1) An optometrist or ophthalmologist issuing a contact lens prescription [that may be
281	filled by a person fitting contact lenses under Subsection 58-16a-305(3)] shall:
282	[(1)] (a) be licensed under this title to practice in Utah;
283	[(2) have a current written agreement with the person fitting the contact lenses to fit the
284	contact lenses to be prescribed by that particular optometrist or ophthalmologist;]
285	[(3) be an optometrist or ophthalmologist for whom the person fitting the contact lenses
286	has performed not less than two years of contact lens apprenticeship which apprenticeship shall
287	be noted in the written agreement; and]
288	[(4)] (b) ensure the final contact lens prescription is accurate [and shall];
289	(c) present a written copy of the prescription to the [person fitting the contact lens under
290	Subsection 58-16a-305(3).] patient after fitting unless:
291	(i) there are unpaid fees associated with the examination or treatment; or
292	(ii) providing a copy is not in the best medical interests of the patient in the professional
293	judgement of the prescribing optometrist or physician; and
294	(d) provide a copy of the patient's contact lens prescription to a person who sells contact
295	lenses upon the request of the patient or the person selling the contact lenses.
296	(2) An optometrist or physician may not be held liable as a result of providing a
297	prescription to a patient as required by Subsection (1).
298	Section 7. Section 58-16a-501 is amended to read:
299	58-16a-501. Unlawful conduct.
300	"Unlawful conduct" includes, in addition to the definition in Section 58-1-501:
301	(1) buying, selling, or fraudulently obtaining, any optometry diploma, license, certificate,
302	or registration;
303	(2) aiding or abetting the buying, selling, or fraudulently obtaining, of any optometry
304	diploma, license, certificate, or registration;
305	(3) selling contact lenses [without having received a written unexpired prescription] in a
306	manner inconsistent with Section 58-16a-801 or intentionally altering a prescription unless the

307	person selling the lenses is a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist[, or an individual exempt
308	from licensure under Subsection 58-16a-305(3)]; or
309	(4) representing oneself as or using the title of "optometrist," "optometric physician,"
310	"doctor of optometry," or "O.D.," unless currently licensed [or exempted from licensure] under this
311	chapter.
312	Section 8. Section 58-16a-502 is amended to read:
313	58-16a-502. Unprofessional conduct.
314	"Unprofessional conduct" includes, in addition to the definition in Section 58-1-501:
315	(1) using or employing the services of an optometric assistant to assist a licensee in any
316	manner not in accordance with:
317	(a) the generally recognized practices and standards of ethics of the profession; or
318	(b) applicable state law or division rule;
319	(2) failure to refer a patient to an appropriate licensed practitioner when:
320	(a) the patient's condition does not respond to treatment; or
321	(b) the treatment is not within the scope of competence or licensure of the licensee;
322	(3) providing confidential information regarding a patient to any third party who does not
323	have a legal and professional ground for obtaining the information;
324	(4) knowingly prescribing, selling, giving away, or administering any prescription drug
325	except for a legitimate medical purpose and upon a proper diagnosis indicating the use of the drug
326	in the amount prescribed or provided;
327	(5) giving or receiving directly or indirectly any fee, commission, rebate, or other
328	compensation for professional services not actually and personally rendered, except as part of a
329	legal relationship within a lawful professional partnership, corporation, or association; [or]
330	(6) failure to transfer pertinent and necessary information from a patient's medical records
331	to another optometrist or physician when so requested by the patient or his representative, as
332	designated in writing[-]; or
333	(7) failure to provide a contact lens prescription to a person who sells contact lenses in
334	accordance with Section 58-16a-306.
335	Section 9. Section 58-16a-503 is amended to read:
336	58-16a-503. Penalty for unlawful conduct.
337	[Any] (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), any person who violates the unlawful

338	conduct provision defined in Section 58-16a-501 or Subsection 58-1-501(1)(a) or (1)(c) is guilty
339	of a third degree felony.
340	(2) A person who violates Subsection 58-16a-501(3) is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.
341	Section 10. Section 58-16a-601 is amended to read:
342	58-16a-601. Scope of practice.
343	(1) An optometrist may:
344	(a) provide any optometric services not specifically prohibited under this chapter or
345	division rules and that are within the optometrist's training, skills, and scope of competence; and
346	(b) prescribe or administer any pharmaceutical agent for the eye and its adnexa, including
347	all oral pharmaceutical agents[, except that the oral antibiotics may only be prescribed for:].
348	[(i) eyelid-related ocular conditions or diseases; and]
349	[(ii) any other ocular disease or condition as specified by division rule.]
350	(2) An optometrist may not:
351	(a) perform surgery, including laser surgery; or
352	(b) prescribe or administer any Schedule II [or Schedule III] controlled substance as
353	defined in Title 58, Chapter 37, Controlled Substances.
354	(3) An optometrist is a health care provider for purposes of Sections 31A-22-617 and
355	<u>31A-22-618.</u>
356	Section 11. Section 58-16a-801 is enacted to read:
357	Part 8. Contact Lens Seller
358	<u>58-16a-801.</u> Contact lens seller.
359	(1) A person may sell contact lenses if the person:
360	(a) does so in the ordinary course of trade from a permanently located and established
361	place of business;
362	(b) does not perform refractions, over-refractions, or attempts to traffic upon assumed skill
363	in testing the eye;
364	(c) does not offer or give contact lenses as premiums, as defined in Section 13-26-2;
365	(d) does not fit contact lenses;
366	(e) provides a contact lens to a patient after:
367	(i) receiving an unexpired verbal or written prescription; or
368	(ii) sending a contact lens prescription verification to the prescribing optometrist or

369	physician, regardless of whether the prescribing optometrist or physician responds to or confirms
370	the verification, provided that:
371	(A) the person has all of the information necessary to fill the prescription;
372	(B) the prescribing optometrist or physician has not informed the person that the
373	prescription has expired or is otherwise inaccurate prior to the person shipping or hand-delivering
374	the contact lens to the patient;
375	(C) the person confirms a valid, unexpired contact lens prescription for the patient if the
376	person is aware that the patient provided inaccurate prescription information in his last order; and
377	(D) the person informs the patient that the prescription has expired or that there is a
378	medical problem associated with the prescription if the information is communicated by the
379	prescribing optometrist or physician to the person within 72 hours of the contact lens verification
380	being sent; and
381	(f) maintains patient information, including the method and date of any prescription
382	verification, for no less than seven years.
383	(2) Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring a person to be licensed or
384	certified in any way under this or any another chapter of this title to sell contact lenses in
385	accordance with Subsection (1).
386	Section 12. Section 58-17a-305 is amended to read:
387	58-17a-305. Exemptions from licensure.
388	In addition to the exemptions from licensure in Section 58-1-307[-]:
389	(1) an individual who has completed all qualifications for licensure as a pharmacy
390	technician, except an experience requirement which may be established by rule under Subsection
391	58-17a-302(4), may practice under the direct personal supervision of a pharmacist while
392	completing that requirement for a period not to exceed six consecutive months without being
393	licensed under this chapter[-]; and
394	(2) a person may sell contact lenses in accordance with Section 58-16a-801 without being
395	licensed under this chapter.

Legislative Review Note as of 1-24-00 3:33 PM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel