

SENATE No. 1242

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act ensuring consumer choice and equal access to eye care.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2017</i>

SENATE No. 1242

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1242) of Michael O. Moore, William N. Brownsberger, Barbara A. L'Italien, Thomas M. Stanley and other members of the General Court for legislation to ensure consumer choice and equal access to eye care. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act ensuring consumer choice and equal access to eye care.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Treatment of Glaucoma and other eye related disorders

2 Section 1: Notwithstanding any general laws to the contrary, Massachusetts optometrists
3 licensed under chapter 94C shall have the authority to treat glaucoma and ocular abnormalities of
4 the human eye and the adjoining and adjacent tissue, as well as prescribe all necessary eye
5 related medications including all anti-infective agents.

6 Nothing in this section shall permit optometric utilization of or prescription of (i)
7 therapeutic pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of systemic diseases; (ii) invasive surgical
8 procedures, (iii) pharmaceutical agents administered by sub dermal injection, intramuscular
9 injection, intravenous injection, subcutaneous injection or retro bulbar injection, (iv) opioid
10 medications.

11 Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the Board of Registration in Optometry is
12 hereby directed to determine all professional and educational requirements necessary to provide

13 optometric treatment of glaucoma and the prescription of oral anti-infective medications. Any
14 education requirements shall: (i) be administered by the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists
15 (ii) Be approved by an accredited college of optometry or medicine; and (iii) meet guidelines and
16 requirements of the Board of Registration in Optometry

17 Prior to any Massachusetts licensed optometrist utilizing said glaucoma medications, an
18 optometrist must complete an educational program administered by the Massachusetts Society of
19 Optometrists which shall be approved by an accredited college of optometry or medicine and
20 shall otherwise meet the guidelines and requirements of the board of registration of optometry.
21 The Board of Registration in Optometry shall provide, to the Department of Public Health and to
22 each successful applicant, a certificate of qualification in the utilization and prescription of all
23 therapeutic pharmaceutical agents necessary to treat glaucoma and all oral anti-infective
24 medications.

25 Within 90 days after the effective date of this act, the Department of Public Health and
26 the Board of Registration in Optometry shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to
27 effectuate the purpose of this act.