



ISSUE MEMORANDUM

DATE	December 9, 2022
TO	Members, California State Board of Optometry (CSBO)
FROM	Gregory Pruden, Interim Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #6c – Legislative Update

The first day of the 2023-24 regular session of the California Legislature began on December 5, 2022. The first day of session is organizational, focused on the swearing-in of new members and with at least two legislative races yet to be decided, normal legislative action isn't expected until members return in the new year.

Presented below are two legislative bills that impacted CSBO during the 2022 legislative year:

[Assembly Bill 2574](#) (Salas) Optometry: ophthalmic and optometric assistants
 This bill restores statutory authorities that were erroneously removed by AB 407 (Salas, Chapter 652, Statutes of 2021). It authorizes an optometrist to independently initiate immunizations if they are immunization certified, and to diagnose and stabilize patients with acute angle closure glaucoma. It also clarifies that optometry or ophthalmology assistants may perform preliminary subjective refraction procedures as part of their training. The intent of this bill is to clean-up and clarify statutory authorities within the Optometry Practice Act. *This bill was signed by the Governor and takes effect on January 1, 2023.*

[Assembly Bill 2236](#) (Low) Optometry: certification to perform advanced procedures
 Would have created a new certificate type that allows optometrists to perform three advanced laser surgical procedures, excision, or drainage of nonrecurrent lesions of the adnexa, injections for treatment of chalazia and to administer anesthesia, and corneal crosslinking procedures after meeting specified training, passing an examination, and completing education requirements that the California State Board of Optometry must develop. It also would have required optometrists to report any adverse treatment outcomes to the Board and would have required the Board to review these reports in a timely manner. *This bill was vetoed by the Governor.*