

Board of Examiners in Optometry
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Dawn Bircher, OD, President,
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March 10, 2025

Representative Will Carpenter, Chairman
House Health and Human Services Committee
Kansas Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66603

Chairman Carpenter:

My name is Dr. Dawn Bircher and I currently serve as the president of the Kansas State Board of Examiners in Optometry (KSSBEO). The mission of the KSSBEO is to regulate, administer, and enforce the provisions of Kansas Optometry Law so that the highest quality of eye care is provided to the citizens of Kansas. We believe that by vigorous enforcement of the law, we protect the public to ensure that the highest quality of comprehensive eye care is available to the citizens of Kansas and that it is delivered by qualified optometric practitioners.

Our role is to ensure compliance with the optometry law and as such, the Board is neutral on this bill. However, the procedures outlined in the bill are part of contemporary education and training. Knowledge related to these procedures is part of the rigorous national board examination, which successful passing is required in order to apply for licensure in Kansas.

If House Bill 2223 passes, the KSSBEO will take the necessary measures to ensure that Kansas optometrist in pursuit of performing these procedures will have the necessary training and certification to provide care safely for Kansas patients. The credentialing process can be done within existing resources; however, if needed, the bill does allow us to set fees to cover any unforeseen expenses.

HB 2223 also includes a few minor changes requested by the KSSBEO, including providing electronic means of providing lists of Kansas licenses, as well as allowing flexibility in where the KSSBEO could hold the licensing exam.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at dawn.bircher@ks.gov.

Thank you for your service to Kansas.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bircher, OD
President, Kansas State Board of Examiners in Optometry