

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 679

H. P. 551 House of Representatives, February 18, 1975  
Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for  
concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Goodwin of South Berwick.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT to Require Optometrists to Refer Patients to Ophthalmologists in  
Certain Situations.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

32 MRSA, c. 34-A, sub-c. VI, is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER VI

REFERRAL TO OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

§ 2451. Required referral to ophthalmologists

1. Conditions when referral required. An optometrist providing service to any individual shall recommend examination by an ophthalmologist whenever the optometrist notes:

A. A failure on the part of the individual being examined to achieve 20/40 visual acuity in each eye by refraction unless the cause of impaired vision has already been medically determined;

B. A complaint by the individual being examined of flashes of light or transient dimming of vision, obscured vision or loss of vision;

C. Diplopia;

D. A complaint by the individual being examined of permanent or temporary loss of any part of the visual field or the clinical discovery of any such field loss;

E. The presence of inflammation as manifested by redness of the eye or swelling of the ocular adnexa;

F. The presence of corneal opacities or abnormalities in the normally transparent media of the eye, the ocular fundus, or the disc not previously medically identified;

G. An elevated ocular tension or signs and symptoms of glaucoma, or both; or

H. The presence of strabismus.

2. Ophthalmologist defined. For the purposes of this section, an ophthalmologist shall be defined as any physician licensed to practice medicine who specializes in the diagnosis and the medical and surgical treatment of diseases of the eye.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act requires optometrists to recommend an examination by an ophthalmologist whenever he notices certain eye symptoms or conditions in the course of providing optometrical service to anyone.