

to read as so follows: "Practice of optometry is defined to be the application of optical principles through technical methods and devices in the examination of the human eye for the purpose of determining visual defects and the adaptation of lenses or prisms for the aid and relief thereof, or the prescribing of contact lenses for, or the fitting or adaptation of contact lenses to the human eye.

"Such measurement of the eye and modification of the light entering the eye is optometry and this definition of optometry has been declared sound and correct by the courts in the Silver cases above."

As drawn, optometrists could examine, use X-rays and other means of examination for pathology. This is the practice of medicine and would authorize medical procedures by optometrists which are forbidden by law. In the Silver case above, the Court held "Optometry is said by a well known writer on the subject not to be a part of medicine, either by inheritance, basic principles, development or practice. It is an applied arm of optical science resting upon the work and discoveries of physicists and opticians through the ages down to modern times. It does not treat the eye, whether in health or disease, but adapts the light rays which enter the eye in accordance with optical principles so as to produce focused and single vision with the least abnormal exertion on the part of the eye."

Our amendments are necessary to exclude the dispensing optician from being barred in filling written prescriptions of physicians, surgeons and optometrists which is the optician's existing traditional function in the District of Columbia. Actually these bills should be further amended to exclude from their provision persons who sell spectacles, eyeglasses or lenses as merchandise as now provided in the present optometry law, Section 20(b), and is now provided generally in optometrist laws throughout the U.S.

Amend Section 9 to read "This Act shall not apply to physicians or surgeons practicing medicine or surgery under the laws of the District of Columbia, nor to nurses or technicians acting under their direction."

Amend Section 9 to read as follows: "This Act shall not apply to any person who fills the written prescription of a physician, surgeon or optometrist."

The last portion of Section 9 should be deleted. Section 9(c).

Section 14 should be deleted and the following inserted in lieu thereof:

"Every optometrist shall, within ten days after the completion of an optometrist's refraction, refer to a physician for a medical eye examination any person whose visual acuity the optometrist has not improved 20 over 20 Snellen in each eye. The optometrist shall not thereafter prescribe prisms or ocular exercises for such person unless and until the optometrist receives written approval from a physician."

Optometrists state they are capable of recognizing eye diseases and do refer persons with such diseases to physicians for medical care.

The North Carolina report casts doubt on these claims and statements of optometrists. With the low percentage of referrals as shown by the North Carolina report, is also shown by optometry's own survey of Dale F. Kitner, O.D. survey and in the testimony of Meredith W. Morgan, Jr., O.D., Dean of the School of Optometry, University of California, which show referrals of only 2.9 per cent of the grand total of patients seen by optometrists.