

1 body that is not intraocular.

2 (3) Subsection (1) ~~does not allow~~ allows an optometrist to perform ~~surgery or laser surgery for any~~
3 ~~purpose~~ in-office surgical procedures and laser surgical procedures limited to the anterior segment of the eye
4 and adnexa, excluding penetrating intraocular surgery, intravitreal injection, and refractive surgery. An
5 optometrist may perform laser surgical procedures only if the optometrist is certified by the board in accordance
6 with 37-10-302.

7 (4) Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter:

8 (a) "board" means the board of optometry provided for in 2-15-1736; and

9 (b) "department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in Title 2, chapter 15,
10 part 17."

11

12 **Section 2.** Section 37-10-302, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"37-10-302. Qualifications -- application.** (1) The board shall adopt rules relative to and governing
14 the qualifications of applicants for licensure as optometrists and the qualifications for certification of licensed
15 optometrists to perform laser surgical procedures.

16 (2) A person is not eligible to receive a license unless that person is of good moral character.

17 (3) A person is not eligible to receive a license unless that person has graduated from an
18 accredited school of optometry in which the practice and science of optometry is taught in a course of study that
19 is accredited by the association of regulatory boards of optometry.

20 (4) An applicant for a license shall file a completed application on a form provided by the
21 department and pay a fee prescribed by the board.

22 (5) The board shall certify an optometrist to perform laser surgical procedures on verification that
23 the optometrist has successfully completed the required didactic and clinical training from an accredited
24 optometry school or college. The training must cover the use of lasers for medically recognized and appropriate
25 treatment of the human eye. On certification, the board shall issue a license indicating that the optometrist is
26 certified to perform laser surgery pursuant to this section.

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28 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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