



IDFPR

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Secretary

CAMILE LINDSAY
Director

The Illinois Optometric Licensing and Disciplinary Board convened an open meeting on Friday, October 30, 2025. The meeting was held in the IDFPR offices at 555 W. Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60661 and at 320 W. Washington Street, Springfield, IL 62786. The locations were connected by video conferencing.

Board members physically present for the meeting:

Chelsey Moore, O.D, Chairperson
Kristen Buskirk, O.D., Member
Jennifer Dunne, O.D, Member

Melissa Suckow, O.D., Vice-Chairperson
Leslie Grant, Member
M. Brian Sehy, OD, Member

IDFPR representatives physically present for the meeting:

Ronald Almiron, Assistant General Counsel
Todd Robertson, Board Liaison

Guests present for the meeting:

Leigh Ann Vanausdoll, Illinois Optometric Association
Katie Lewis, Illinois Optometric Association

Call to Order - Welcome and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:53 a.m.

Board Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the open minutes from the Illinois Optometric Licensing and Disciplinary Board meeting on March 16, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the open meeting minutes from the Illinois Optometric Licensing and Disciplinary Board meeting on May 15, 2025, as amended to reflect that the meeting occurred on a Thursday. The motion passed unanimously.

Ad-Hoc Committee Report

Dr. Buskirk and Dr. Sehy presented the committee's recommended revisions to the Optometric Practice Act. These recommendations include removing the phrase "without the use of surgery" from Section 3(a); removing the term "nonsurgical" from Section 3(a)(8)(b); eliminating references in Section 3(f) to the Collaborative Optometric/Ophthalmological Task Force and to "an accredited, private 4-year school of optometry that is located in a city in Illinois..."; removing the final sentence in Section 3(f) regarding the use of lasers; amending Section 15(a-5) to include authorization for administering the COVID-19 vaccine; amending Section 15(b) to clarify that licensed optometrists may remove superficial "and embedded" foreign bodies; and removing Section 15.3 regarding the Collaborative Optometric/Ophthalmological Task Force.

General Counsel's Report

Mr. Almiron announced that legislation to extend the expiration date of the Illinois Optometric Practice Act under the Illinois Regulatory Sunset Act will be introduced during the January 2026 session of the Illinois General Assembly. Under current law, the Act is set to expire on January 1, 2027, unless it is renewed. The sunset legislation will focus on making necessary technical updates to the Optometric Practice Act to ensure the Department can continue its oversight of licensed optometrists in Illinois while reviewing its regulations to confirm they are neither burdensome nor redundant.

Discussion about sunset bill

Mr. Almiron outlined the Department's recommended revisions to the Optometric Practice Act. These recommendations include removing Section 3(f) in its entirety; adding a definition of "Adnexa" in Section 9; amending Section 11 to replace references to "the Illinois College of Optometry" with a more general reference to an approved optometry school in Illinois; removing Section 15.3 and Section 29 in their entirety; and making additional technical updates throughout the Act.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Director add the term "accredited" before "optometry school" and remove the phrase "and recognized by the Department" in the proposed amendments to Section 11 of the Act. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Director remove Section 16(d) in its entirety along with the proposed amendments to the Act, as the requirement applied only to the 2008 license renewal. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Director standardize the spelling of the term "monies" throughout the Act as part of the proposed amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

A separate discussion was held regarding the Department's recommendation to define the term "Adnexa" in Section 9 of the Act. Board members expressed concern that the proposed definition was too narrow and suggested using a broader, more general definition. Members also questioned whether it was necessary to define the term in statute. The Board noted that because no other anatomical terms are defined in the Act's definitions section, it may be more appropriate to address such definitions in the administrative rules, subject to the rules-making process.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Director exclude a definition of "Adnexa" from the proposed sunset bill, as discussed, due to differing views on how the term should be defined. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Time

Dr. Sehy provided additional information regarding Achar Gel. He explained that the medication is shipped directly to the patient, after which a nurse visits the patient's home to train them on how to self-administer the injection. A brief discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded, under Section 15.1(a-3) of the Act, to recommend that the Director add the Achar Gel pre-filled injector as an ocular pharmaceutical agent that may be prescribed by Illinois optometrists. The Board reviewed information on Achar Gel and discussed the topic during its business meeting on May 15, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Before the meeting concluded, Mr. Almiron noted that Achar Gel cannot be prescribed by Illinois optometrists due to Section 15.1(a-5) of the Act, which specifies that ocular pharmaceutical agents administered by injection may be used only for the treatment of anaphylaxis.

Dr. Moore raised a question regarding continuing education audits for licensees, specifically expressing concern about ensuring that all required hours are completed, including the 12 in-person hours that must be certified by an approved college in accordance with 68 IAC 1320.80(b)(2). A brief discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend that the Director conduct random continuing education audits for licensed optometrists, to the extent feasible within the Department's capabilities. The motion was unanimously approved.

As a follow-up to the previous meeting, Mr. Robertson reported that there are currently no plans to fill the optometric coordinator vacancy. Mr. Almiron added that there is no demonstrated need to fill the position at this time.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote.