

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 14-0523	<b>Date:</b> July 29, 2014
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Schafer Sen. Aguilar	<b>Bill Status:</b> Signed into Law
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Lauren Schreier (303-866-3523)

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**SHORT TITLE:** OPTOMETRISTS PRESCRIPTION DRUG AUTHORITY

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2014-2015</b>	<b>FY 2015-2016</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Minimal workload increase.	
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, optometrists can only prescribe Schedule III, IV, and V controlled substances to patients for ophthalmic purposes. The bill expands the definition of the practice of optometry to allow optometrists to prescribe Schedule II controlled narcotic substances limited to hydrocodone combination drugs. The bill also permits optometrists to charge a fee to patients when prescribing and dispensing any medications for ophthalmic purposes.

**State Expenditures**

The bill may result in a minimal workload increase for the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). The Division of Professions and Occupations within DORA is responsible for licensing and monitoring optometrists. The bill may require the division to conduct additional rulemaking to reflect the new prescription drug authority of optometrists. The division could accomplish this task within existing appropriations. The State Board of Pharmacy, also within DORA, maintains a table outlining the prescriptive authority of medical providers. The board would need to update this table in order to reflect the changes to optometry under the bill. This also increases workload by a minimal amount and will be accomplished within existing appropriations.

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on March 14, 2014.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Public Health and Environment  
Human Services

Health Care Policy and Financing  
Regulatory Agencies