



The Connecticut Opticians Association

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY 2022



General Assembly
February Session, 2022
Referred to Committee on No Committee

Bill No. 5506
LCO No. 6176

Introduced by:

REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

[The Budget Implementer was released. It is 673 pages of light reading. You can find our compromised language in section 230, which begins on page 354.] **New Language**
[<https://cga.ct.gov/2022/TOB/H/PDF/2022HB-05506-R00-HB.PDF>]

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Line No.

9124 Sec. 230. Section 20-150 of the general statutes is repealed and the
9125 following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2022):

9126 (a) No optical glasses or kindred products or other instruments to aid
9127 vision that are produced or reproduced to personalized given formulas,
9128 or plano cosmetic contact lenses shall be sold at retail except under the
9129 **direct** supervision of a licensed optician and in a registered optical
9130 establishment, office or store. An optical establishment, office or store is
9131 defined as meaning one the owner of which has had issued to him an
9132 optical license selling permit.

9133 (b) **Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,**
9134 **an optical establishment, office or store, registered with the Department**
9135 **of Public Health pursuant to section 20-151, may remain open to the**
9136 **public during regular business hours without the supervision of a**
9137 **licensed optician for a period of time not to exceed four consecutive**

9138 business days (1) in the event of reasonably unanticipated
9139 circumstances, including, but not limited to, the licensed optician's
9140 illness, injury, family emergency, or termination or resignation from the
9141 optical establishment, office or store; (2) if reasonable action is taken to
9142 have another licensed optician present at the establishment, office or
9143 store during regular business hours; and (3) the optical establishment,
9144 office or store posts clear and conspicuous signage that a licensed
9145 optician is not on site. The sign shall state:

9146 **NO LICENSED OPTICIAN ON PREMISES:**
9147 **CONNECTICUT LAW PROHIBITS ACTIVITIES BY EMPLOYEES**
9148 **RELATED TO PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES OR CONTACT**
9149 **LENSES, INCLUDING MEASURING, SELLING OR ORDERING IN**
9150 **ANY MANNER, FITTING, DELIVERING OR DISPENSING**
9151 **PRESCRIPTION EYEWEAR UNTIL THE OPTICIAN RETURNS.**

9152 (c) During any period of time during which an optical establishment,
9153 office or store remains open to the public without the supervision of a
9154 licensed optician pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, no owner or
9155 employee of the establishment, office or store shall:

9156 (1) Sell or order optical glasses or kindred products or other
9157 instruments to aid vision that are produced or reproduced to
9158 personalized given formulas, or plano cosmetic contact lenses;

9159 (2) Perform measurements on any individual for optical glasses or
9160 kindred products or other instruments to aid vision that are produced
9161 or reproduced to personalized given formulas, or plano cosmetic
9162 contact lenses. Performing measurements includes determining
9163 interpupillary distance, vertical fit heights, and utilizing frame size,
9164 bridge size, and temple length to recommend the fit of a frame;
9165 (3) Make recommendations that are medically relevant to the

9166 personalized given formulas for optical glasses or kindred products or
9167 other instruments to aid vision, or plano cosmetic contact lenses,
9168 including frame type, lens style or material, lens tint, or multifocal type,
9169 or any recommendations regarding any specific type of contact lenses
9170 or disinfection systems for contact lenses;

9171 (4) Fit, adjust or otherwise alter or manipulate optical glasses or
9172 kindred products or other instruments to aid vision that are produced
9173 or reproduced to personalized given formulas, or plano cosmetic
9174 contact lenses;

9175 (5) Deliver optical glasses or kindred products or other instruments
9176 to aid vision that are produced or reproduced to personalized given
9177 formulas, or plano cosmetic lenses; or

9178 (6) Transact a sale online for optical glasses or kindred products or
9179 other instruments to aid vision that are produced or reproduced to
9180 personalized given formulas, or plano cosmetic contact lenses.

9181 [(b)] (d) Nothing in subsection (a) or (c) of this section shall be
9182 construed to limit the ability of a physician, licensed under chapter 370,
9183 who is trained and specializes in diseases of the eye or an optometrist,
9184 licensed under chapter 380, to dispense contact lenses.

9185 [(c)] (e) A violation of the provisions of subsection (a) or (c) of this
9186 section constitutes an unfair trade practice under subsection (a) of
9187 section 42-110b.

[Effective October 1, 2022. Amends Sec. 20-150]

Current Statute Language

Sec. 20-150. Where optical goods may be sold. Exception. Unfair trade practice. (a) No optical glasses or kindred products or other instruments to aid vision that are produced or reproduced to personalized given formulas, or plano cosmetic contact lenses shall be sold at retail except under the supervision of a licensed optician and in a registered optical establishment, office or store. An optical establishment, office or store is defined as meaning one the owner of which has had issued to him an optical license selling permit.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed to limit the ability of a physician, licensed under chapter 370, who is trained and specializes in diseases of the eye or an optometrist, licensed under chapter 380, to dispense contact lenses.

(c) A violation of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section constitutes an unfair trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

