

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2022 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB375

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Petersen

**3. Committee:** Education and Health

**4. Title:** Optometrists; allowed to perform laser surgery if certified by Board of Optometry.

**5. Summary:** Allows an optometrist who has received a certification to perform laser surgery from the Board of Optometry (the Board) to perform certain types of laser surgery of the eye and directs the Board to issue a certification to perform laser surgery to any optometrist who submits evidence satisfactory to the Board that he (i) is certified by the Board to prescribe for and treat diseases or abnormal conditions of the human eye and its adnexa with therapeutic pharmaceutical agents pursuant to Code requirements and (ii) has satisfactorily completed such didactic and clinical training programs provided by an accredited school or college of optometry that includes training in the use of lasers for the medically appropriate and recognized treatment of the human eye as the Board may require.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** See item 8.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The provisions of the bill would create an additional workload on the Board of Optometry (the Board) to certify optometrists. The board would see an increase in licensing and requests to receive and assess documentation of qualification for such certification. The inclusion of laser surgery may result in additional complaints that would have to be investigated and possibly adjudicated. The Board and the Department of Health Professions would likely be able to handle the workload with existing staff and part-time employees. Revenue derived from fees would cover any additional costs for the Department and the Board.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Health Professions.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** HB213, as introduced by Delegate Robinson, is a companion bill.