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S.F. No. 659 - Limitations modification on prescribing and administering certain drugs by optometrists

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Date: February 20, 2024

Bill Overview

S.F. 659 revises the scope of practice for optometrists such that optometrists are able to administer legend drugs (i) intravenously, (ii) intramuscularly, or (iii) by injection, if the administration would otherwise be within the optometrist's scope of practice, and prohibits optometrists from administering any intravitreal injections. The bill further authorizes optometrists to administer and prescribe oral steroids, provided that the administration and prescription of oral steroids for more than 14 days requires consultation with a physician.

Section Summaries

Section 1 (amends Minn. Stat. § 148.56, subd. 1) Existing law prohibits optometrists from administering legend drugs intravenously, intramuscularly, or by injection, except for treatment of anaphylaxis. This section removes this prohibition, such that optometrists are able to perform such injections if the injection is within the scope of the optometrist's practice. The section further adds a new prohibition on intravitreal injections, however, such that intravitreal injections are not within the optometrist's scope of practice.

Existing law prohibits optometrists from administering or prescribing oral steroids. This section removes this prohibition, but conditions an optometrist's administration or prescription of an oral steroid such that oral steroids prescribed or administered for more than 14 days require consultation with a physician. The section further permits optometrists to prescribe or administer oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors for more than seven days.