

1 AN ACT relating to consumer protection in eye care.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 367.680 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in KRS 367.680 to 367.690:

5 (1) "Assessment mechanism":

6 (a) Means automated or virtual equipment, application, or technology designed  
7 to be used on a telephone, a computer, or an Internet-based device that may  
8 be used either in person or remotely to conduct an eye assessment; and

9 (b) Includes artificial intelligence devices and any equipment, electronic or  
10 nonelectronic, that is used to perform an eye assessment;

11 (2) "Contact lens" means any lens placed directly on the surface of the eye,  
12 regardless of whether or not it is intended to correct a visual defect, including any  
13 cosmetic, therapeutic, or corrective lens;

14 (3) "Eye assessment" means an assessment of the ocular health and visual status of  
15 a patient that may include but is not limited to objective refractive data or  
16 information generated by an automated testing device, including an  
17 autorefractor, in order to establish a medical diagnosis for the correction of  
18 vision disorders;

19 (4) "Person" means an individual, corporation, trust, partnership, incorporated or  
20 unincorporated association, and any other legal entity;

21 (5) "Prescription" means a handwritten or electronic order issued by a licensed  
22 optometrist, osteopath, or physician, or an oral order issued directly by a licensed  
23 optometrist, osteopath, or physician;

24 (6) "Seller" means an individual or entity that sells contact lenses or visual aid  
25 glasses and dispenses them to Kentucky residents in any manner; and

26 (7) "Visual aid glasses":

27 (a) Means eyeglasses, spectacles, or lenses designed or used to correct visual

1 defects, including spectacles that may be adjusted by the wearer to achieve  
 2 different types or levels of visual correction or enhancement; and

3 (b) Does not include optical instrument or devices that are:

4 1. Not intended to correct or enhance vision;

5 2. Sold without consideration of the visual status of the individual who will  
 6 use the optical instrument or device, including sunglasses that are designed  
 7 and used solely to filter out light; or

8 3. Completely assembled eyeglasses or spectacles designed and used solely to  
 9 magnify.

10 ~~[(1) "Person" means an individual, corporation, trust, partnership, incorporated or~~  
 11 ~~unincorporated association, and any other legal entity.~~

12 ~~(2) "Mail order contact lens seller" means an individual or entity that sells contact~~  
 13 ~~lenses and dispenses them to Kentucky residents through the United States Postal~~  
 14 ~~Service or other common carrier.~~

15 ~~(3) "Contact lens prescription" means a written order bearing the original signature of a~~  
 16 ~~licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician, or an oral order issued directly by a~~  
 17 ~~licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician that authorizes dispensing of contact~~  
 18 ~~lenses to a patient. A contact lens prescription includes contact lenses without~~  
 19 ~~power sold for cosmetic purposes.]~~

20 ➔Section 2. KRS 367.681 is amended to read as follows:

21 (1) A contact lens prescription shall include the following:

22 (a) The ophthalmic information necessary to accurately fabricate or dispense the  
 23 lenses, including the lens manufacturer, lens series, and the lens material if  
 24 applicable;

25 (b) Power and base curve;

26 (c) Name, license number, telephone number, and for written orders, the signature  
 27 of the prescribing optometrist, osteopath, or physician;

1 (d) Patient's name and address, expiration date of the prescription, and number of  
2 refills or lenses permitted; and

3 (e) The date of issuance.

4 (2) A contact lens~~The~~ prescription may also include the diameter, axis, add power,  
5 cylinder, peripheral curve, optical zone, and center thickness.

6 **(3) A prescription for visual aid glasses shall include the following:**

7 **(a) The name, license number, telephone number, and for written orders, the**  
8 **signature of the prescribing optometrist, osteopath, or physician;**

9 **(b) The patient's name;**

10 **(c) The date of issuance; and**

11 **(d) The value of all parameters the licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician**  
12 **has deemed necessary to dispense corrective lenses appropriate for a**  
13 **patient.**

14 **(4) A licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician shall not refuse to release a**  
15 **prescription for contact lenses or visual aid glasses to a patient.**

16 ➔Section 3. KRS 367.683 is amended to read as follows:

17 (1) All ~~mail-order~~ contact lens sellers and any person authorized in accordance with  
18 KRS Chapters 320, 315, or 326 to dispense contact lenses in the Commonwealth  
19 shall verify the contact lens prescription by the following:

20 (a) Receipt of a written or faxed valid contact lens prescription signed by the  
21 prescribing optometrist, osteopath, or physician; or

22 (b) An electronic or oral affirmative communication of the complete contact lens  
23 prescription from the prescribing optometrist, osteopath, or physician.

24 (2) If a ~~mail-order~~ contact lens seller or any person authorized to dispense contact  
25 lenses in the Commonwealth finds it necessary to contact the prescribing  
26 optometrist, osteopath, or physician via telephone in order to verify a contact lens  
27 prescription, the following protocols shall be followed:

- 1 (a) Calls shall be made during regular business hours;
- 2 (b) Any verification requests shall include the name, address, and telephone  
3 number of the patient;
- 4 (c) The toll-free telephone number as required by KRS 367.687(7) shall be  
5 included in voice mail or messages left on answering machines;
- 6 (d) Contact lens prescriptions shall not be mailed, sent, delivered, or dispensed  
7 before verification by the optometrist, osteopath, or physician;
- 8 (e) Touch-tone telephone options offered by a ~~mail-order~~ contact lens seller or  
9 any person authorized to dispense contact lenses in the Commonwealth shall  
10 not constitute verification; and
- 11 (f) Response-time options stated by a ~~mail-order~~ contact lens seller or any  
12 person authorized to dispense contact lenses in the Commonwealth shall not  
13 constitute verification.

14 (3) In the absence of a prescription as defined and described in KRS 367.680 and  
15 367.681, it shall be a violation of KRS 367.680 to 367.690 to dispense contact  
16 lenses through the mail or otherwise to a Kentucky resident.

17 ➔Section 4. KRS 367.684 is amended to read as follows:

- 18 (1) Any ~~mail-order contact lens~~ seller or any person authorized to dispense contact  
19 lenses or visual aid glasses in the Commonwealth who fills a ~~contact lens~~  
20 ~~prescription~~ bears the full responsibility for the accurate dispensing of the contact  
21 lenses or visual aid glasses provided under the ~~contact lens~~ prescription. At no  
22 time shall any changes or substitutions be made including brand, type of lenses, or  
23 ophthalmic parameters without the direction of the optometrist, osteopath, or  
24 physician who issued the contact lens or visual aid glasses prescription.
- 25 (2) The optometrist, osteopath, or physician shall not be liable for any damages for  
26 injury resulting from the packaging, manufacturing, or dispensing of the contact  
27 lenses or visual aid glasses unless the ~~contact lens~~ seller and the ~~contact lens~~

1       prescriber are the same person.

2       ➔Section 5. KRS 367.685 is amended to read as follows:

3       A contact lens fitting shall be complete and a contact lens prescription may be written  
4       when:

- 5       (1) The optometrist, osteopath, or physician has completed all measurements, tests, and  
6       examinations necessary to satisfy his or her professional judgment that the patient is  
7       a viable candidate to wear contact lenses, recognizing that more than one (1) visit  
8       between the patient and the optometrist, osteopath, or physician may be required;  
9       and
- 10      (2) Contact lenses suitable for the patient's eyes have been evaluated and fitted by the  
11      optometrist, osteopath, or physician to the patient's eyes and the optometrist,  
12      osteopath, or physician is satisfied with the fitting based on ocular health and the  
13      visual needs of the patient.

14      The patient shall be entitled to receive a copy of the contact lens prescription until its  
15      expiration date.

16      ➔Section 6. KRS 367.686 is amended to read as follows:

17      No person located outside of Kentucky shall ship, mail, deliver, or sell contact lenses or  
18      visual aid glasses to a patient at a Kentucky address unless:

- 19      (1) Registered with the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and  
20      (2) In possession of a valid contact lens or visual aid glasses prescription as defined  
21      and described in KRS 367.680 and 367.681.

22      ➔Section 7. KRS 367.687 is amended to read as follows:

23      The Attorney General shall require and provide for the annual registration of all ~~mail~~  
24      ~~order~~ contact lens and visual aid glasses sellers located outside of the Commonwealth  
25      that dispense contact lenses or visual aid glasses to Kentucky residents, including those  
26      providing contact lenses or visual aid glasses via the Internet. A ~~mail order~~ contact lens  
27      or visual aid glasses seller's registration shall be granted upon the disclosure and

1 certification by the seller of all of the following:

- 2 (1) The seller is licensed or registered to distribute contact lenses *or visual aid glasses*  
3 in the state in which the dispensing facility is located and from which the contact  
4 lenses *and visual aid glasses* are dispensed;
- 5 (2) The location, names, and titles of all owners, partners, corporate officers, and the  
6 person who is responsible for overseeing the dispensing of contact lenses *and visual*  
7 *aid glasses* to residents of this state;
- 8 (3) The seller has complied with and shall continue to comply with all lawful directives  
9 and appropriate requests for information from the appropriate agency of each state  
10 in which the seller is licensed or registered;
- 11 (4) The seller shall respond to all requests for information from the Attorney General  
12 within thirty (30) days from receipt of the request;
- 13 (5) The seller shall maintain records of contact lenses *and visual aid glasses* dispensed  
14 to residents of this state for a period of ten (10) years, and that the records shall be  
15 readily available for inspection by the Attorney General upon demand;
- 16 (6) The seller shall provide a toll-free telephone service during its regular hours of  
17 operation for the sole purpose of responding to the patients in this state concerning  
18 questions and complaints. All questions relating to eye care shall be referred to the  
19 doctor prescribing the contact lenses *or visual aid glasses*;
- 20 (7) The seller shall provide a toll-free telephone service during its regular hours of  
21 operation solely for optometrists, osteopaths, and physicians.
- 22 (8) The seller shall provide the following or a substantially equivalent written  
23 notification to the patient whenever contact lenses are supplied: WARNING: IF  
24 YOU ARE HAVING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS REMOVE  
25 YOUR CONTACT LENSES IMMEDIATELY AND CONSULT YOUR EYE  
26 CARE PRACTITIONER BEFORE WEARING YOUR LENSES AGAIN:  
27 UNEXPLAINED EYE DISCOMFORT, WATERING, VISION CHANGE, OR

1 REDNESS; and

2 (9) The seller's license or registration, in the state in which the seller is licensed or  
3 registered, has not been suspended or revoked, but should the seller be the subject  
4 of any investigation undertaken by the licensing or registering state, or should the  
5 seller's license or registration be suspended or revoked, then the seller shall  
6 immediately notify the Attorney General of such actions.

7 ➔SECTION 8. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 367.680 TO 367.690 IS CREATED  
8 TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

9 (1) A person shall not operate an assessment mechanism to conduct an eye  
10 assessment or to generate a prescription for contact lenses or visual aid glasses to  
11 a patient at a Kentucky residence, unless:

12 (a) Diagnostic information and data, including photographs and scans,  
13 gathered by the assessment mechanism are read and interpreted by a  
14 Kentucky-licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician;

15 (b) The Kentucky-licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician can verify the  
16 identity of the patient requesting treatment via the assessment mechanism;

17 (c) The assessment mechanism is designed and operated in a manner that  
18 provides any applicable accommodation required by the federal Americans  
19 with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. secs. 12101 et seq., as amended;

20 (d) The assessment mechanism and accompanying technology used for the  
21 collection and transmission of information and data, including photographs  
22 and scans, gathers and transmits protected health information in  
23 compliance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and  
24 Accountability Act of 1996 as amended;

25 (e) The procedure for which the assessment mechanism is used has a  
26 recognized Current Procedural Terminology code maintained by the  
27 American Medical Association, if applicable;

- 1        (f) The diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, prescription for visual aid glasses,  
2        prescription for contact lenses, or consultation recommendations of the  
3        provider to the patient made through the utilization of the assessment  
4        mechanism shall prominently display the name and Kentucky state license  
5        number of the optometrist, osteopath, or physician who has read and  
6        interpreted the diagnostic information and data, including photographs and  
7        scans;
- 8        (g) The owner or lessee of the assessment mechanism maintains liability  
9        insurance in an amount adequate to cover claims made by individuals  
10       diagnosed or treated based on information and data, including photographs  
11       and scans, generated by the assessment mechanism;
- 12       (h) The assessment mechanism creates and maintains a medical record for  
13       each patient, which is for use during the ongoing treatment of a patient,  
14       and complies with all state and federal laws regarding maintenance and  
15       accessibility;
- 16       (i) There is simultaneous interaction between the patient and the Kentucky-  
17       licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician; and
- 18       (j) The Kentucky-licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician utilizing an  
19       assessment mechanism provides a handwritten or electronic signature  
20       certifying their evaluation, treatment, prescription, or consultation  
21       recommendations of the patient.
- 22       (2) A person shall not operate an assessment mechanism to conduct an eye  
23       assessment or to generate a prescription to a patient under the age of eighteen  
24       (18) years old at a Kentucky residence.
- 25       (3) A person shall not operate an assessment mechanism to conduct an eye  
26       assessment or to generate a prescription for visual aid glasses or contact lenses to  
27       a patient at a Kentucky residence unless:



- 1        (a) The patient has received an in-person comprehensive eye health  
2            examination by an optometrist, osteopath, or physician within the previous  
3            twenty-four (24) months; and
- 4        (b) The patient's medical history, previous prescription for corrective eyewear,  
5            and length of time since the patient's most recent in-person comprehensive  
6            eye health examination is collected.
- 7        (4) Prior to receiving an assessment, each Kentucky patient shall be provided with  
8            and shall accept as a term of use a disclosure that includes the following  
9            information:
- 10       (a) This assessment shall not be a replacement for an in-person comprehensive  
11           eye health examination;
- 12       (b) This assessment shall only be used if the patient has had an in-person  
13           comprehensive eye health examination within the previous twenty-four (24)  
14           months;
- 15       (c) The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
16           advises contact lens wearers to visit an eye doctor one (1) time a year or  
17           more often if needed; and
- 18       (d) Prior to receiving an assessment, the patient shall provide the month and  
19           year that he or she received the most recent in-person comprehensive eye  
20           health examination.
- 21       (5) Evaluation, treatment, and consultation recommendations by a Kentucky-  
22           licensed optometrist, osteopath, or physician utilizing an assessment mechanism  
23           as required in this section, including issuing a prescription via electronic means,  
24           shall be held to the same standards of appropriate practice as those in traditional  
25           in-person clinical settings.
- 26       (6) No provider shall issue an initial prescription for contact lenses, or renew an  
27           initial prescription for contact lenses for a patient, without having performed an

1 *in-person comprehensive eye health examination of the patient.*

2 *(7) This section shall not:*

3 *(a) Limit the discretion of an optometrist, osteopath, or physician to direct a*  
 4 *patient to utilize any technology or telehealth service deemed appropriate*  
 5 *for any treatment and care of the patient;*

6 *(b) Limit the sharing of patient information, in whatever form, between an*  
 7 *optometrist, osteopath, or physician; or*

8 *(c) Apply beyond ocular health and eye care.*

9 ➔Section 9. KRS 367.688 is amended to read as follows:

10 The Attorney General shall charge a fee for investigation and registration of nonresident  
 11 dispensers of contact lenses *and visual aid glasses.*

12 ➔Section 10. KRS 367.690 is amended to read as follows:

13 (1) Any person who dispenses, offers to dispense, or attempts to dispense contact lenses  
 14 *or visual aid glasses* in violation of KRS 367.680 to 367.690 or the administrative  
 15 regulations promulgated by the Attorney General concerning the dispensing of  
 16 contact lenses *or visual aid glasses* shall, in addition to any other penalty provided  
 17 by law, pay a civil penalty to the office of the Attorney General in an amount not to  
 18 exceed *eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000)*~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~ for each  
 19 violation.

20 (2) Any person charged in a complaint filed by the Attorney General with violating any  
 21 of the provisions of KRS 367.680 to 367.690 shall be entitled to an administrative  
 22 hearing conducted in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ KRS Chapter 13B.

23 (3) Any person aggrieved by a final order issued under the authority of this section shall  
 24 have the right of an appeal by filing a petition with the Franklin Circuit Court in  
 25 accordance with KRS Chapter 13B.

26 ➔SECTION 11. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 367.680 TO 367.690 IS CREATED  
 27 TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 ***KRS 367.680 to 367.690 may be cited as the Consumer Protection in Eye Care Act.***