

Call to Order

The August 28, 2024, Virginia Board of Optometry public hearing on proposed regulatory amendments was called to order at 9:06 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions (DHP), Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Board Room 3, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

Presiding Officer

Gerald R. Neidigh, Jr., O.D., President

Members Present

Evan J. Kaufman, O.D., Vice President

Fred E. Goldberg, O.D.

Clifford A. Roffis, O.D.

Shawn H. Hobbs, O.D.

Member Attending Electronically

Corliss V. Booker, Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC, Citizen Member, was approved by the President of the Board to participate electronically due to a family illness conflict that prevented travel to the Richmond office for the meeting.

Staff Present

Arne W. Owens, Agency Director

Kelli G. Moss, Executive Director

Heather Pote, Acting Deputy Executive Director

Erin Barrett, JD, Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs

Barbara Hodgdon, Ph.D., Deputy Director of HWDC

Laura A. Booberg, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel

Claire Foley, Adjudication Specialist

Matt Novak, Policy and Economic Analyst

Kelly Smith, Director of Communications

Laura Jackson, MSHSA, Board Administrator

Laura Paasch, Senior Licensing & Operations Specialist

Public Present

Bo Keeney, Virginia Optometric Association

Mariah Merhige, Director of Marketing and Communications, The Keeney Group

Scott Mann, O.D., Virginia Optometric Association

Jeff Michaels, O.D., Virginia Optometric Association

John McAllister, M.D., Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Michael Keverline, M.D., Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Madeline Busse, Assistant Vice President, Two Capitols Consulting

Public Hearing - Proposed Regulations

Dr. Neidigh stated that the Board has adopted proposed regulatory amendments regarding laser surgery certifications.

The following public comment was provided:

- Dr. McCallister discussed laser surgery patient safety concerns in both didactic and live proctored cases.
- Mr. Keeney supports the proposed regulations as more than adequate with no modifications.
- Dr. Keverline discussed the differences between practicing on a model eye vs. a live eye and the importance of proctoring.
- Dr. Mann supports the proposed regulation as presented.
- Dr. Michaels supports the proposed regulation as written.

Written comment on the proposed amendments to the Regulations of the Virginia Board of Optometry should be directed to Erin Barrett, Agency Regulatory Coordinator at erin.barrett@dhp.virginia.gov or comment may be posted on Virginia's Regulatory Town Hall at www.townhall.virginia.gov. The comment period will end at the close of business on October 25, 2024.

Public Hearing Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Dr. Neidigh adjourned the hearing at 9:17 a.m.

Kelli G. Moss
Executive Director