

Office of Regulatory Management
Economic Review Form

Agency name	Board of Optometry, Department of Health Professions
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	18VAC105-20
VAC Chapter title(s)	Regulations of the Virginia Board of Optometry
Action title	Regulations for laser surgery certifications
Date this document prepared	December 8th, 2023
Regulatory Stage (including Issuance of Guidance Documents)	Proposed

Cost Benefit Analysis

Complete Tables 1a and 1b for all regulatory actions. You do not need to complete Table 1c if the regulatory action is required by state statute or federal statute or regulation and leaves no discretion in its implementation.

Table 1a should provide analysis for the regulatory approach you are taking. Table 1b should provide analysis for the approach of leaving the current regulations intact (i.e., no further change is implemented). Table 1c should provide analysis for at least one alternative approach. You should not limit yourself to one alternative, however, and can add additional charts as needed.

Report both direct and indirect costs and benefits that can be monetized in Boxes 1 and 2. Report direct and indirect costs and benefits that cannot be monetized in Box 4. See the ORM Regulatory Economic Analysis Manual for additional guidance.

Table 1a: Costs and Benefits of the Proposed Changes (Primary Option)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: The direct cost to licensees will be the cost of a training program or the cost of taking the laser portion of the national examination consistent with Board requirements. This will only apply to licensees who graduated before the laser portion of the national examination became common for students to take, which may have been around 2012, although the Board was not able to obtain this information.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: None</p> <p>Direct Benefits: Optometrists certified to perform laser surgery can do so and obtain payment for such services.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: None</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) An ophthalmic lasers and advanced procedures course provided in early 2024 cost \$2,100 for registration; the laser section of the LSPE cost \$1170 in 2024.	(b) Laser surgery can cost approximately \$2,000 - \$3,000 per eye. Not all cost goes to practitioner. Unable to determine the cost received by practitioner due to variations in practice such as number of employees at a location, cost of equipment, cost of building rent, etc.
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	Because the monetized benefit continues over time and the certification costs are one-time, monetized benefits will far outweigh the cost, despite the Board having no way to determine how much a practitioner will make per procedure.	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	None	
(5) Information Sources	National Board of Examiners in Optometry (“NBEO”); University of Missouri-St. Louis website; google.	

Table 1b: Costs and Benefits under the Status Quo (No change to the regulation)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Note: the Board was ordered to promulgate these regulations. Maintaining the status quo is not a viable option.</p> <p>Direct Costs: None</p> <p>Indirect Costs: None</p>
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	Direct Benefits: None	
	Indirect Benefits: None	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) 0	(b) 0
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	0	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	0	
(5) Information Sources		

Table 1c: Costs and Benefits under Alternative Approach(es)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Note: there are no alternative approaches. The Board was ordered through legislation to promulgate regulations to specify proctor and training requirements to allow this certification. The Board has no flexibility in this matter, and attempted to provide options to those seeking certification to ensure that a variety of methods was available.</p> <p>Direct Costs: 0</p> <p>Indirect Costs: 0</p> <p>Direct Benefits: 0</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: 0</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) 0	(b) 0
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	0	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	0	

(5) Information Sources	
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Impact on Local Partners

Use this chart to describe impacts on local partners. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 2: Impact on Local Partners

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	There are no impacts on local partners. Direct Costs: None Indirect Costs: None Direct Benefits: None Indirect Benefits: None	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) 0	(b) 0
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	0	
(4) Assistance	0	
(5) Information Sources		

Impacts on Families

Use this chart to describe impacts on families. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 3: Impact on Families

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	There are no impacts on families. Direct Costs: None
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Benefits (Monetized)	Indirect Costs: None Direct Benefits: None Indirect Benefits: None	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) 0	(b) 0
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non- Monetized)	0	
(4) Information Sources		

Impacts on Small Businesses

Use this chart to describe impacts on small businesses. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 4: Impact on Small Businesses

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>These impacts are the same as table 1a, as many optometrists operate as a small business. Others, however, are part of large ophthalmology centers. The Board has no information regarding where licensees practice, however, and so cannot provide more information on the scope of the impact.</p> <p>Direct Costs: Describe the direct costs of this proposed change here.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: Describe the indirect costs of the proposed change.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: Describe the direct benefits of this proposed change here.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: Describe the indirect benefits of the proposed change.</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)

(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	
(4) Alternatives	
(5) Information Sources	

Changes to Number of Regulatory Requirements

Table 5: Regulatory Reduction

For each individual action, please fill out the appropriate chart to reflect any change in regulatory requirements, costs, regulatory stringency, or the overall length of any guidance documents.

Change in Regulatory Requirements

VAC Section(s) Involved	Initial Count	Additions	Subtractions	Net Change
18VAC105-20	159	0	0	0 (legislatively mandated regulations)

Cost Reductions or Increases (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved	Description of Regulatory Requirement	Initial Cost	New Cost	Overall Cost Savings/Increases

Other Decreases or Increases in Regulatory Stringency (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved	Description of Regulatory Change	Overview of How It Reduces or Increases Regulatory Burden

Length of Guidance Documents (only applicable if guidance document is being revised)

Title of Guidance Document	Original Length	New Length	Net Change in Length