

# Modernizing Tennessee Eye Care | HB 1952/SB 2076

Improving Access, Strengthening Rural Care, Reflecting Modern Training

## The Problem:



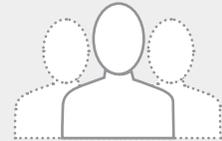
### Aging Population

**1 IN 5** TENNESSEANS  
OVER 65 BY 2035



### Rising Rates of Eye Disease

**EACH YEAR:**  
CATARACTS +2.5%  
GLAUCOMA +2.3%  
ARMD +2.9%  
DIABETIC RETINOPATHY +2.7%



### Provider Shortage

**17** TENNESSEE COUNTIES WITH  
**NO** EYE CARE PROVIDER

## The Solution:

Update the **Tennessee Optometry Practice Act**  
to allow Doctors of Optometry to perform:

#### YAG CAPSULOTOMY

CLEARs CLOUDINESS  
AFTER CATARACT SURGERY

SELECTIVE LASER  
TRABECULOPLASTY (SLT)  
LOWERS EYE PRESSURE IN GLAUCOMA

#### PERIPHERAL IRIDOTOMY (PI)

PREVENTS ANGLE  
CLOSURE GLAUCOMA

#### THESE LASER PROCEDURES ARE:

- In-office procedures
- Non-incisional
- Need no general anesthesia
- Taught in all Optometry schools
- Safely occurring in 14 states including Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas and Mississippi
- Have a complication rate less than 0.001%



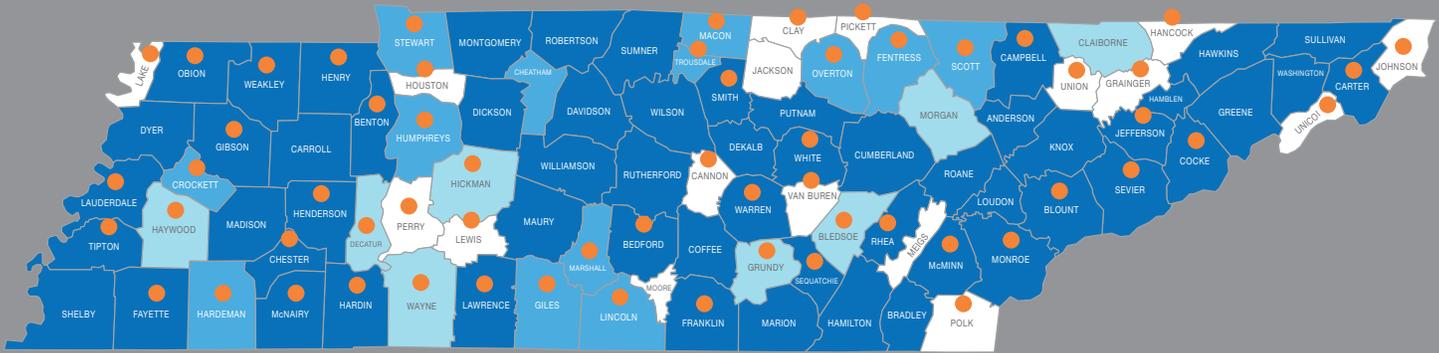
TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF  
**OPTOMETRIC  
PHYSICIANS**

For more information, visit [trustedeyecaretn.com](http://trustedeyecaretn.com).

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# The Facts:

Optometrists serve 78 counties in Tennessee;  
in 44 counties, they are the only provider.



**ACCESS TO EYE CARE 2024:** ■ None ■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 or more ■ No Ophthalmologist  
Doctors of Optometry by County

- In Tennessee, Optometrists are more accessible than Ophthalmologists – especially in rural areas.
- Doctors of Optometry are currently practicing in 78 of 95 Tennessee counties, and are the only eye care provider in 44 counties.
- There are 57 Tennessee counties with NO Ophthalmologist.
- Tennessee is losing young Doctors of Optometry to neighboring states because they are currently able to practice to the full scope of their education and training, including in-office laser procedures.
- In 14 other states, glaucoma and after-cataract in-office laser procedures have been provided by Doctors of Optometry since the 1990s.

## Updating the Tennessee Optometry Practice Act will:

- Prevent vision loss.
  - Improve access to eye care.
  - Provide continuity of care for patients.
  - Reduce delayed treatment and unnecessary ER visits.
  - Keep Tennessee Optometry graduates here to practice.
- For more information, visit [trustedeyecaretn.com](http://trustedeyecaretn.com).



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