



HB 1267

Seeing the future of *vision* care in North Dakota

- ✓ Modernize language in the North Dakota optometry practice act.
- ✓ Establish a statutory definition of telemedicine in optometry.
- ✓ Ensure patient protection by requiring adherence to standard of care through comprehensive eye examinations with informed consent and doctor identity verification.
- ✓ Improve access to quality eye care by expanding regulated services in rural areas.
- ✓ Implement safeguards to ensure high-quality telemedicine practices and enhance accountability in the disciplinary process.

Not all telecommunication meets standard of care. It is important that patients understand the difference between a vision or eye health screening and a true telemedicine optometric service.

The North Dakota Optometric Association Supports the use of telemedicine in optometry to access high-value high-quality eye, health and vision care in North Dakota. Telemedicine in optometry can serve to expand patient access to care, improve coordination of care, and enhance communication among all health care practitioners involved in the care of the patient.

"Information technology must play a central role in the redesign of the health care system if a substantial improvement in quality is to be achieved." - *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*