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3 **Title:** Ophthalmic Surgery by Surgeons  
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5 **Introduced by:** Theresa Cooney, MD, for the Michigan Society of Eye  
6 Physicians and Surgeons  
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8 **Original Author:** Theresa Cooney, MD  
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10 **Referred to:** Reference Committee B  
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12 **House Action:**

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15 **Whereas, ophthalmologists are physicians and surgeons licensed to**  
16 **engage in the practice of medicine and/or surgery, and**  
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18 **Whereas, optometrists are doctors of optometry who are not physicians**  
19 **nor surgeons, and**  
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21 **Whereas, ophthalmic surgery is defined as including, but is not limited**  
22 **to, incisional and excisional surgery of the eyelids and peri-orbital and peri-**  
23 **ocular structures, ocular surface, and intraocular contents; injections around or**  
24 **into the eyes and orbit; and extraocular and intraocular procedures, utilizing**  
25 **needles, injections, laser, scalpel, or any other manner of sharp instrument for**  
26 **the alteration of tissue, and**  
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28 **Whereas, there are significant differences in the medical education,**  
29 **residency training, certification, hospital and health care system credentialing,**  
30 **and licensure between ophthalmologists and optometrists, and**  
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32 **Whereas, ophthalmologists are required after their bachelor's degree to**  
33 **receive at least eight additional years of formal medical education and hands-**  
34 **on training, including five years of clinical, pharmacologic, and surgical care of**  
35 **systemic disease, and more specifically ocular disease, including an additional**  
36 **three to five years of clinical and surgical ophthalmology training, and**  
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38 **Whereas, optometrists are required to receive only four years of**  
39 **optometry education beyond their bachelor's degree, with little time spent on**  
40 **hands-on training, without significant time dedicated to the clinical and surgical**  
41 **care of patients with systemic disease and no time dedicated to ophthalmologic**  
42 **surgical training, and**  
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44 **Whereas, there are significant discrepancies in training program**  
45 **accreditation and individual performance standards between ophthalmologist**  
46 **and optometrist trainees, and**  
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48           **Whereas, many patients are erroneously misled by an optometrist’s title**  
49 **as a “doctor of optometry” to have equal training and credentials as**  
50 **ophthalmologists; therefore be it**

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52           **RESOLVED: That MSMS continue to support the current accepted**  
53 **standards that all ophthalmic surgery be performed only by appropriately**  
54 **educated, trained and certified allopathic and osteopathic physicians**  
55 **possessing an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the state of**  
56 **Michigan, and overseen by the State of Michigan Board of Medicine; and be it**  
57 **further**

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59           **RESOLVED: That MSMS continue to protect the public by supporting the**  
60 **current restrictions that prevent optometrists from performing ophthalmic**  
61 **surgery.**

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64 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**