

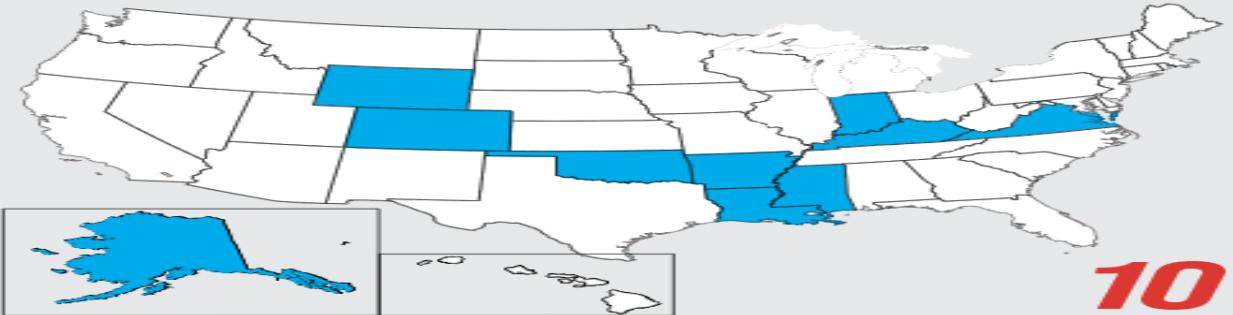
# **AOA Paraoptometric Micro-credential: Optometric Surgical Assisting**

# Adding Laser and Surgical Procedures to Optometric Practice

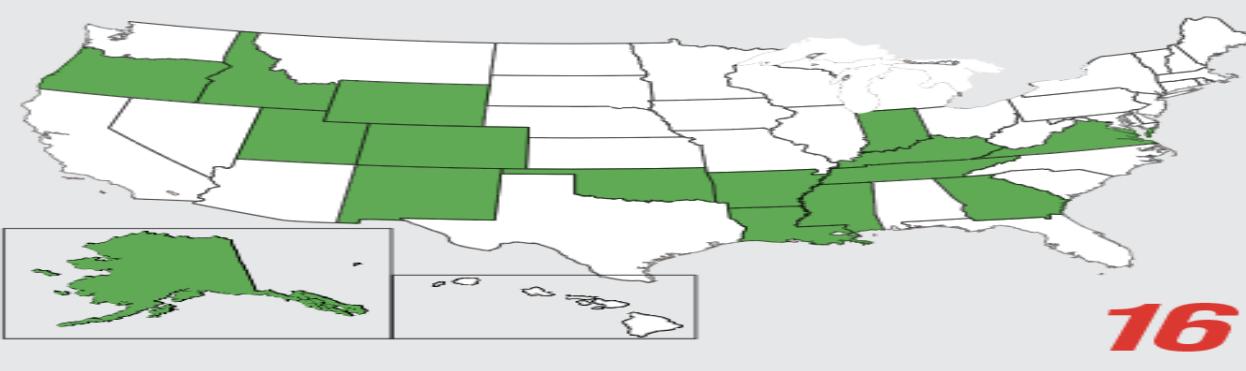
Doctors of optometry are performing office-based laser procedures in 11 states, as AOA affiliates have seen historic scope expansion wins in the past four years and momentum continues to build.

Doctors of optometry are pursuing legislation in other states that would allow them to serve their patients at the highest level of their education and training.

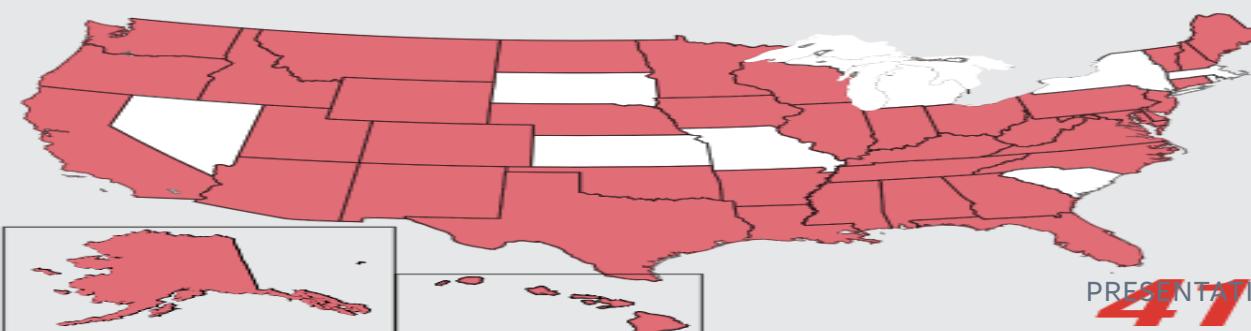
**In-office Laser Surgery  
(capsulotomy, SLT, LPI)**



**Excision of Lumps and Bumps**



**Some Injectable Drugs  
(19 states: for anaphylaxis only)**



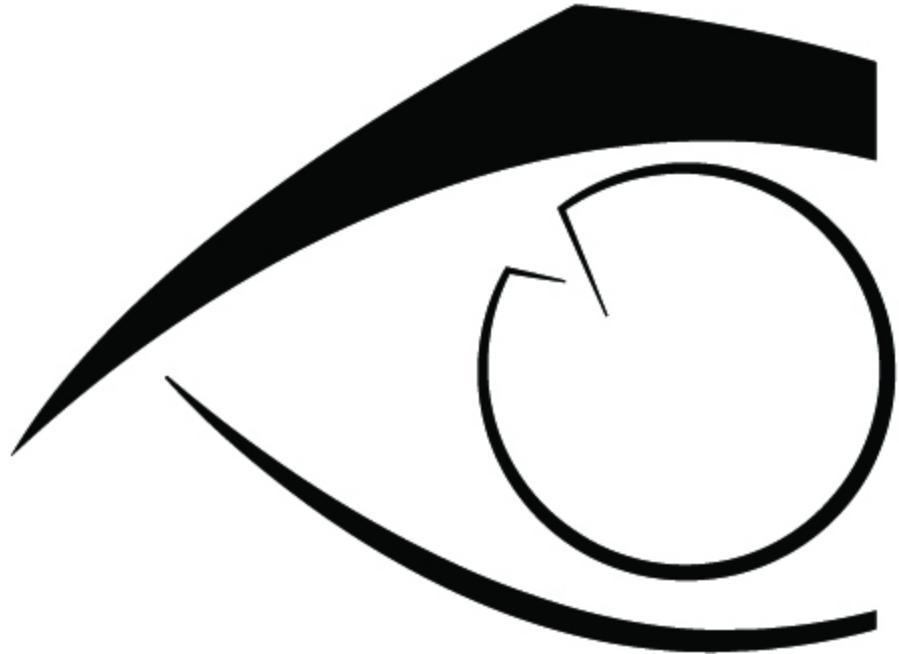
**Where is Optometry now,**

**11 States with Laser Privilege**

**16 with excision of Lumps and Bumps**

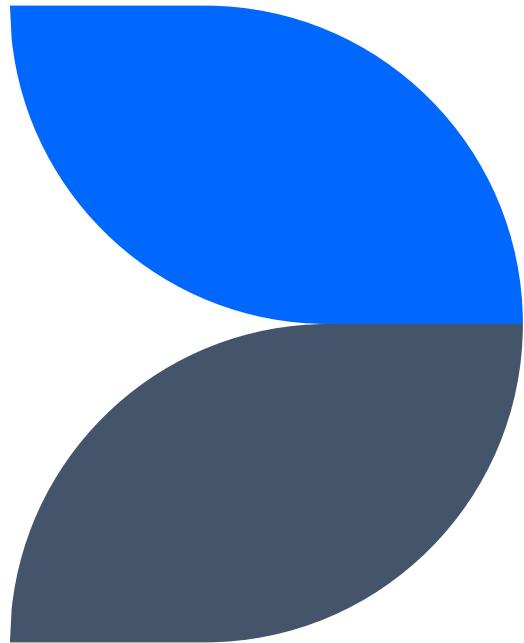
**41 with injections, 19 only for anaphylaxis**

# Signs of the times:



KANSAS OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION  
**ADVANCED  
PROCEDURES  
COURSE**

All 23 Optometry  
Schools are  
teaching Lasers !



# **National Board of Examiners in Optometry**

## **The Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE®)**

### **Laser Section:**

**Selective Laser  
Trabeculoplasty**

**Laser Peripheral Iridotomy**

**Yag Capsulotomy**

### **Surgical Section:**

**Suturing  
Eyelid Surgery  
Injections  
Anesthesia**

# Paraoptometric Micro-credential for Optometric Surgical Assisting

Taught by experienced professionals, the paraoptometric surgical assisting micro-credential requires successful completion of two components:

- One, 6.5-hour **lecture and theory course**, available within the **AOA EyeLearn Professional Development Hub**.
- One, **4-hour hands-on workshop** for skills instruction and assessment, offered at professional meetings, including **Optometry's Meeting**.

Paraoptometrics must demonstrate mastery of the essential clinical skills by passing 14 lab exercises and a 100-question exam to receive the micro-credential.

# Lecture and Theory Course

**Understand the role of an optometric technician in minor eyelid and laser eye surgeries, including the importance of proper training and preparation.**

**Master anatomy and physiology of the eyelids, including common conditions affecting the eyelids, blood supply to the eyelids, and the various nerves of the eyelids.**

**Learn about optometric lasers, laser physics, how lasers work and typical laser procedures.**

**Comprehend the importance of sterilization and infection control and measures to prevent infection transmission.**

**Acquire knowledge related to patient evaluation and pre-operative preparation, along with post-operative instructions.**

**Discover the importance of compliance and regulations related to office-based surgical procedures.**

# **Online exam**

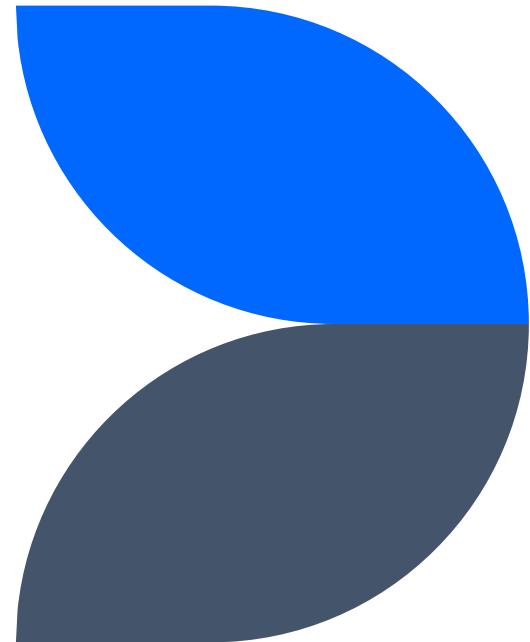
100-question exam to receive the micro-credential.

# Hands on Workshop

4 hours

Will be offered at 2025 HOAECC

\$50 workshop cost



# **Richard Castillo, OD, DO, FASOS**



Senior Director for Clinical Examination Development and Administration, National Board of Examiners

Ophthalmologist and former professor and assistant Dean at Northeastern State University's College of Optometry since 1998



# **At the workshop**

**Explore the office operating room protocols and behaviors' as they relate to optometric office surgery.**

**Identify office surgical equipment, instrumentation and supplies.**

**Review and practice sterile technique, including pre- operative procedure setup and discuss standard precautions.**

# **At the workshop**

**Analyze, demonstrate and perform intra-operative assisting, wound irrigation, hemostasis, tissue management, instrument hand-off and wound closures.**

**Evaluate, verify and practice post-op wound dressing, instrument/environmental management and sterilization**

# At the workshop

Paraoptometrics seeking the AOA Paraoptometric Micro-credential for Optometric Surgical Assisting will be required to demonstrate a mastery of the essential clinical skills by passing all 14 lab exercises.

[Audio Extra: Richard Castillo, O.D., D.O., on AOA's Para  
Surgical Assisting Micro-Credential - YouTube](#)