



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2009 Wisconsin Act 168**  
[2009 Assembly Bill 591]

**Contact Lenses**

Under the law prior to Act 168, an optometrist who satisfies specified requirements may use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents and topical ocular diagnostic pharmaceutical agents. An optometrist was not permitted to dispense agents other than by prescribing or administering, except for complimentary samples of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

*Act 168* allows an optometrist to dispense a contact lens that also delivers a therapeutic pharmaceutical agent, if the optometrist is authorized to prescribe or administer that agent under rules. The Act references the current law under which the Secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing promulgates rules specifying therapeutic pharmaceutical agents that may be prescribed or administered by an optometrist; the rules are to be promulgated after consultation with the Optometry Examining Board, and the Pharmacy Examining Board. The Act also modifies the provision in the statutes dealing with controlled substances to reference the new authority of an optometrist to dispense contact lens that deliver a therapeutic pharmaceutical agent.

***Effective date:*** The Act takes effect on March 30, 2010.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.