



Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC
EXAMINERS**

100 Consumer Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(502) 234-2114

Mary Beth Morris, OD
PRESIDENT

Christi LeMay
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 31, 2026

Patient safety is the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners' top priority, and the Board is taking thorough, accountable action to ensure the highest standards of care are upheld.

The KBOE has formally created a workgroup of subject matter experts, including optometrists, ophthalmologists, educators, and national leaders, to conduct a comprehensive review of Kentucky's current laser credentialing process for optometrists.

This expert workgroup will provide guidance and recommendations to the KBOE on training standards, credentialing, competency verification, and patient safety protocols for laser procedures performed by optometrists under Kentucky law. We are bringing together leading expertise to reinforce a thoughtful, evidence-based approach to patient safety.

The workgroup will provide written recommendations of any changes to the KBOE no later than July 1, 2026. The KBOE shall review the recommendations and formally promulgate administrative regulations of the approved changes to be effective in 2027. The administrative regulation process will also provide additional time for public comment and legislative oversight.

The implementation of this workgroup reflects the KBOE's commitment to continuous improvement and its clear recognition that clinical standards must evolve alongside advancements in care. The KBOE stands ready to implement any warranted enhancements that further strengthen protections for patients across the Commonwealth.

Please refer to the attached workgroup document. If you are an optometrist or ophthalmologist that is interested in participating in this workgroup, please send your curriculum vitae to christi.lemay@ky.gov.