



# MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY NEWSLETTER

## The current Board members are:

Hilary Parrish, OD  
*President*

Anna Middleton, OD  
*Secretary*

Lori Blackmer, OD  
Dax Eckard, OD  
Kimberly Johnson Ragan, OD

Yvonne Laird  
*Executive Director*

Mississippi Attorney  
General's Office –  
*Boards & Commissions*

Cynthia Brown  
*Administrative Assistant*

## Board Contact Information

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Office Hours

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM



## Am I required to have an AED in my office?

An in-person and hands-on AED course is required, and an AED device must be easily accessible for PEP-certified optometrists if they are performing PEP procedures within their business ([Rule 4.2.C](#)).

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## Board Licensed Optometrists

As statutorily required, the Board administers examinations on the second Saturdays of January and July. The following optometrists were newly licensed this year:

### January

Aaron Holmes, OD

Xuan Pham, OD

Danielle Stasney, OD

### July

Jon Bantugan, OD

Grace McCreight, OD

Ashley Boyd, OD

Louis Magee III, OD

Betsy Dang, OD

Azalia Roach, OD

Charlsey Felder, OD

Maggie Taylor, OD

Madison McBride, OD

Rhonda Thompson, OD

## Spotlight

➤ Senate Bill 2699 was signed by Governor Tate Reeves on March 28, 2025, and provided reauthorization of The Patient's Right to Informed Health Care Choices Act, *Miss. Code Ann.* § 41-121-1 et seq. To view this legislation as well as the Mississippi Attorney General's Opinion 2018-00116, click [here](#). This Act, the Attorney General's Opinion, along with MSBO Rule 9.4 provides that your optometry license must be displayed in each of your practice locations in Mississippi. If you need a license certificate to display in your office, please use the form located [here](#).

➤ If you need to make a change to your personal or business information, please submit the appropriate form...

[Personal Information Change Notification](#)

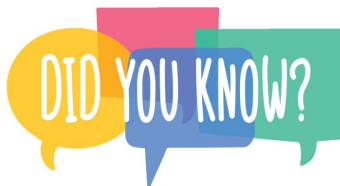
[Business Information Change Notification](#)



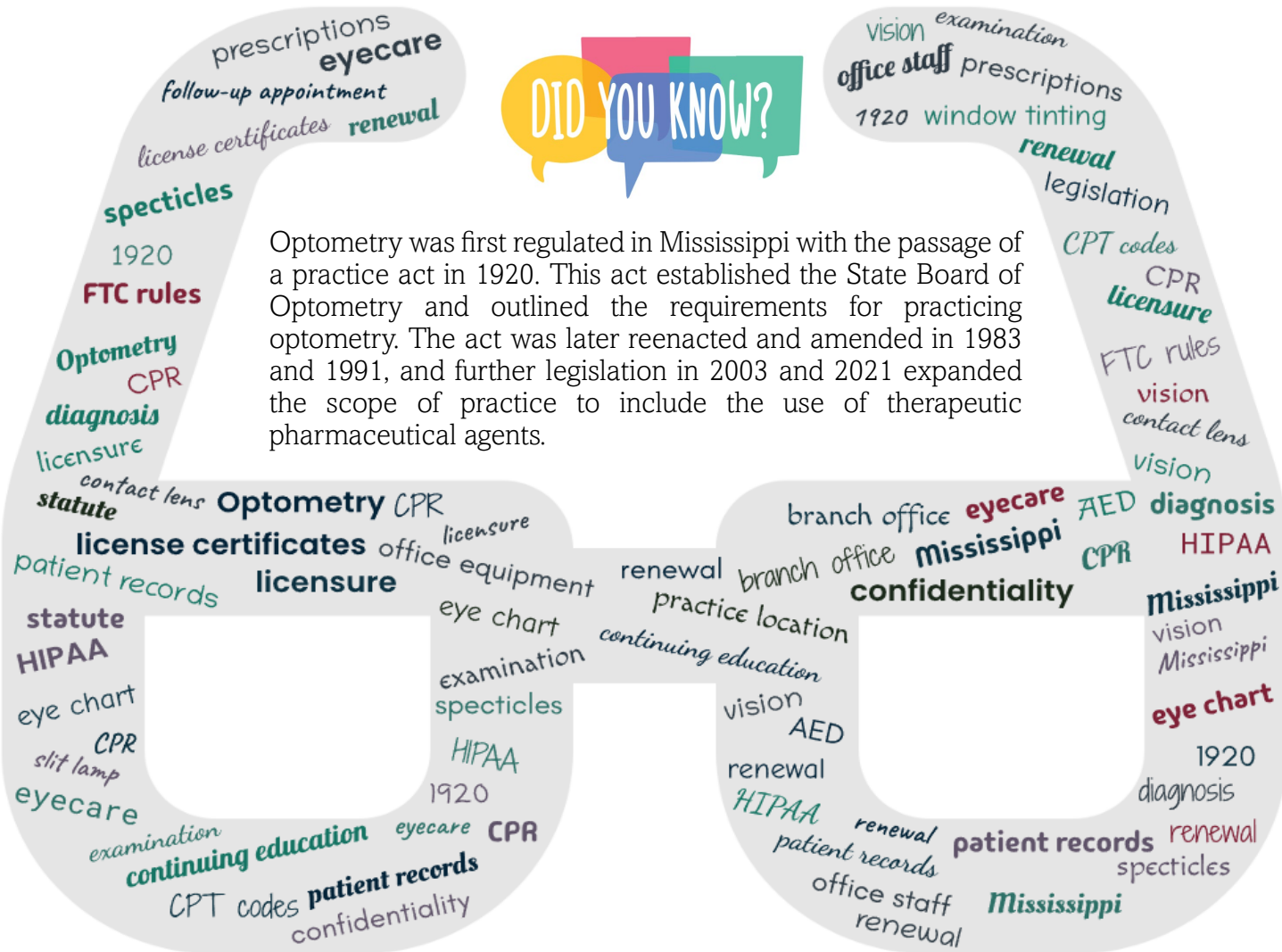
- The online renewal portal will open on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Renewals are due by midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The renewal fee is \$400.00. Renewals processed after December 31<sup>st</sup> will incur a \$15.00 late fee. Email reminders will be sent beginning in September.
- Continuing Education (CE) hours: A total of twenty (20) hours of CE credits are required annually for renewal. Twelve (12) hours of non-face-to-face CE credits will be accepted in any category except CPR. Eight (8) hours of CE credits must be in-person.
- **The P-Y certification for PEP is required to perform advance procedures as defined in the scope of practice, as YAG education alone does not authorize practice.** If you wish to become PEP-certified, there are several requirements that must be met:
  - Completion of thirty-two (32) course hours of instruction from an accredited school of optometry. If two (2) years have passed since your graduation date, you must take a separate 32-hour course.
  - Submit an application, including the testing fee of \$750.00, to the Board at least 30 days prior to PEP testing. The next testing date will be Saturday, July 10, 2027. The deadline for applications for the July 10<sup>th</sup> testing date is June 10, 2027. Testing includes a written examination and a clinical skills assessment (both are administered at the Board Office).
  - After passage of the written examination and the clinical skills assessment, participate in eight (8) additional hours working under a Board-approved preceptor.

Refer to the **Primary Eyecare Procedures Certification** portion of the [Examination Handbook](#) for additional information.

- If you are PEP-certified, per Rule 4.2, you are required to complete an outcomes form no later than January 7, 2027, for YAG procedures performed during 2026. A fine of \$100.00 will be imposed upon failure to report outcomes (Rule 3.1). **Submission of the form is required even if you do not perform any procedures in 2026.** The outcomes form will be emailed to all PEP-certified optometrists in November.



Optometry was first regulated in Mississippi with the passage of a practice act in 1920. This act established the State Board of Optometry and outlined the requirements for practicing optometry. The act was later reenacted and amended in 1983 and 1991, and further legislation in 2003 and 2021 expanded the scope of practice to include the use of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.



## SCAM ALERT



Scammers are cloning the phone number of the Board Office to make it appear you are receiving a call from the Board Office.

In most instances, the caller states they are calling from the DEA or the FBI because there is an issue with your license or that you are under investigation due to some type of fraud.

The DEA nor the FBI will call you to discuss these types of alleged offenses and if your caller ID shows the Board's phone number, that certainly isn't the DEA nor FBI. Do not share any personal information on calls such as these.

If you receive a call similar to this, please report it to the DEA (use the link [here](#)).