

Chapter 71 of our statutes, and it listed a number of different health professionals. One of the health professionals they mentioned here, right off the bat, it is called the practice of medicine and surgery, and it lists qualifications, it lists what they have to do to be licensed as a...for the license of medicine as well as surgery, and then it has a few other licenses under health care professionals from massage therapist to professional counselors to social workers to athletic trainers, respiratory care, dietetic and nutrition services, osteopathies, nursing, chiropractic, embalming, and then optometry is listed here, too, as one of the professions, and also they list a separate one for pharmacy, and I am trying to determine now if these optometrists have the same educational level as a pharmacist, since we are talking about...we are kind of talking about, it looks like a hybrid here, where we have individuals actually prescribing prescription drugs as well as performing different types of medical procedures on a person's body. So it looks like these optometrists are kind of a hybrid between a pharmacist and a doctor, at least according to the definition of our state statutes, how we define what an optometrist is and a physician and a pharmacist. And I wonder if you could tell me if the level of education, when it comes to pharmaceutical drugs, is the same or equal to or more than a pharmacist?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, I am only going to guess because I don't know the requirements of a pharmacist.

SENATOR ABBOD: Okay.

SENATOR MOORE: But I mean when it comes to dispensing, I would say a pharmacist knows more than anybody about drugs, so you've got a lot of hybrids, you have got a lot of hybrids out there. And not knowing the pharmacist's educational requirements, I really can't answer your question. I assume that a pharmacist knows more.

SENATOR ABBOD: Okay, what kind of education does an optometrist have when it comes to prescription drugs? I know you have a lot of information there, and, you know, we are talking about some serious, possible serious medical problems that could occur. I assume in there that they have some sort of information, like they take some sort of pharmaceutical classes at some accredited university someplace in this country, and I would appreciate it if you could just put this...refresh my