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**Health Care & Wellness Committee**

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**HB 1190**

**Brief Description:** Concerning the use of hydrocodone products by licensed optometrists in Washington state.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Harris, Riccelli, Fitzgibbon, Robinson, Goodman, Buys and Vick.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Creates an exception to the prohibition against an optometrist using, prescribing, dispensing, purchasing, possessing, or administering Schedule I or II controlled substances for hydrocodone combination products.

**Hearing Date:** 1/28/15

**Staff:** Jim Morishima (786-7191).

**Background:**

Optometrist Prescriptive Authority.

Optometry consists of the examination of the human eye, the examination and ascertaining of any defects of the human vision system, and the analysis of the process of vision. In order to be licensed as an optometrist, a person must complete his or her high school education, graduate from an accredited school of optometry, and pass an examination.

A licensed optometrist may prescribe certain oral Schedule III-V controlled substances and oral legend drugs. The optometrist may only prescribe the drugs as appropriate for the treatment of diseases or conditions of the human eye and the adnexa that are within the scope of practice of optometry. An optometrist may not:

- prescribe, dispense, or administer more than a seven-day supply of a controlled substance;
- prescribe, dispense, or administer an oral drug within 90 days of an ophthalmic surgery without consulting the treating ophthalmologist;

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

- use, prescribe, dispense, purchase, possess, or administer a Schedule I or II controlled substance; or
- use, prescribe, dispense, or administer oral corticosteroids.

Hydrocodone.

Hydrocodone is an opioid derived from codeine. Hydrocodone is a Schedule II controlled substance, but certain hydrocodone combination drugs are Schedule III controlled substances.

**Summary of Bill:**

An exception is created to the prohibition against an optometrist using, prescribing, dispensing, purchasing, possessing, or administering Schedule I or II controlled substances for hydrocodone combination products.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.