

H.R. 4282 Protects Prescription Accuracy Without Restricting Access to Contact Lenses



The Contact Lens Prescription Verification Modernization Act (H.R. 4282) makes targeted changes to the existing contact lens prescription verification process. It does not change the consumer’s ability to purchase contact lenses from the seller of their choice; it modernizes how prescription information is provided and verified.

The bill would:	The bill would not:
Preserve the existing framework that allows consumers to obtain their prescription and purchase contact lenses from a third-party or online seller.	Require patients to purchase contact lenses from their prescribing eye care professional or change who may prescribe contact lenses.
Strengthen the security of prescription information by requiring certain electronic communications to comply with HIPAA privacy requirements.	Prevent consumers from using their valid prescription to purchase contact lenses from authorized retailers.
Update the prescription verification process to promote coherent communication between contact lens sellers and prescribers by outlawing automated robocalls.	Eliminate a consumer’s choice when electing where to purchase contact lenses. Patients can continue to purchase contact lenses from their eye doctor, a retail seller, or an online seller.
Help ensure that the contact lenses provided to a patient correspond to the prescription issued by the patient’s eye care professional.	Restrict access to eye care or contact lenses.

Why H.R. 4282 Is Needed: The Existing Contact Lens Rule

The Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act (FCLCA) requires prescribers to provide patients with a copy of their prescription and requires sellers to verify the prescription with the prescriber before dispensing contact lenses. However, the existing verification system permits automated telephone systems to be used for verification if specific requirements are met.

The current verification process can make it difficult for physicians to identify and correct inaccurate prescription information before an order is fulfilled, particularly when verification relies on automated voice messages or robocalls. **H.R. 4282 addresses this verification process.** The legislation is intended to strengthen the existing safeguards so that consumers can continue to conveniently obtain contact lenses while having greater assurance that the lenses they receive match the prescription issued by their eye care professional.