

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1181

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Creating the Washington state board of naturopathy.

Sponsors: Representatives Green, Hinkle, Santos and Dickerson.

House Committee on Health Care & Wellness
Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care

Background:

Naturopathic medicine is the art and science of the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disorders of the body through the natural processes of the body. Naturopathic medicine includes:

- manipulation (mechanotherapy);
- the prescription, dispensing, and use of nutrition and food science;
- physical modalities;
- minor office procedures;
- homeopathy;
- naturopathic medicines;
- hygiene and immunization;
- contraceptive devices;
- common diagnostic procedures; and
- suggestion.

Naturopaths are licensed by the Department of Health (DOH), which is responsible for:

- adopting rules;
- setting minimum education and experience requirements;
- preparing and administering licensing examinations;
- determining alternative training requirements;
- implementing a continuing competency program;
- setting license and examination fees;
- issuing licenses;
- maintaining records of applicants and licensees;
- conducting hearings if a denial of a license is appealed; and
- disciplining licensed naturopaths for unprofessional conduct.

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.

When carrying out its functions, the DOH is advised by the Naturopathic Advisory Committee, which consists of five members appointed by the Secretary of Health.

Summary:

The Board of Naturopathy (Board) is created (replacing the Naturopathic Advisory Committee). The Board consists of seven members appointed by the Governor for four-year terms. Five members of the Board must be licensed naturopaths and two members must be members of the public.

The Board is responsible for:

- adopting rules;
- setting minimum education and experience requirements;
- preparing and administering licensing examinations;
- determining alternative training requirements;
- implementing a continuing competency program; and
- disciplining licensed naturopaths for unprofessional conduct.

The DOH maintains the responsibility for:

- setting license and examination fees;
- issuing licenses;
- maintaining records of applicants and licensees; and
- conducting hearings if a denial of a license is appealed.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	0
Senate	47	1

Effective: July 22, 2011