## HOUSE BILL REPORT SHB 1809

## As Passed Legislature

**Title:** An act relating to naturopath's authority to give direction to persons licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

**Brief Description:** Authorizing naturopaths to give direction to registered nurses.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Dyer and Dickerson).

## **Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** 

Health Care: 2/21/95, 2/24/95 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/8/95, 98-0.

Senate Amended. House Concurred. Passed Legislature.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Dyer, Chairman; Backlund, Vice Chairman; Hymes, Vice Chairman; Dellwo, Ranking Minority Member; Cody, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Campbell; Casada; Conway; Crouse; Kessler; Morris; Sherstad and Skinner.

**Staff:** John Welsh (786-7133).

**Background:** Currently, nurses and licensed practical nurses may work under the direction of a physician, dentist, osteopathic or podiatric physician or physician assistant, or advanced nurse practitioner.

Current law, however, does not authorize the nurse or licensed practical nurse to work under the direction of a naturopathic physician.

**Summary of Bill:** Nurses and licensed practical nurses are authorized to work under the direction of a naturopathic physician, consistent with their scopes of practice. The

nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission is required to develop rules for nursing practice under the direction of naturopathic physicians.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

Effective Date of Bill: The act takes effect August 1, 1996.

**Testimony For:** Nurses should have the option to work with naturopathic physicians.

Testimony Against: None.

**Testified:** Jeff Larsen and Dr. Patricia Hastings, Washington Association of Naturopathic Physicians (pro); Steve Borukowitz, Department of Health; and Lisa Thatcher, Washington State Nurses Association.