

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 277
Senate Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 6/22/17
PROPOSED SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H277-PCS40764-SH-38

Short Title: Naturopathic Study.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 8, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A WORK GROUP TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
3 APPROPRIATE OVERSIGHT AND REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF
4 NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE IN NORTH CAROLINA AND TO REPORT TO THE
5 JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN
6 SERVICES.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** Naturopathic medicine is a distinct health care profession that
9 affects the public health, safety, and welfare of the State's residents. Certification of professionals
10 practicing naturopathic medicine will aid in protecting citizens from deception, fraud, and
11 damage to their health status. On or before September 15, 2018, the Secretary of the Department
12 of Health and Human Services, or the Secretary's designee, shall convene a work group to study
13 the delivery of naturopathic medicine in North Carolina. The work group shall be comprised of
14 the following individuals: two naturopathic doctors, selected by the North Carolina Association
15 of Naturopathic Physicians; one medical doctor, who has knowledge of the practice of
16 naturopathic medicine, selected by the North Carolina Medical Society; the chairperson of the
17 North Carolina Medical Board, or the chairperson's designee; and the Secretary of the
18 Department of Health and Human Services, or the Secretary's designee.

19 **SECTION 1.(b)** The work group shall develop recommendations necessary to
20 provide appropriate oversight and regulation of naturopathic medicine in the State of North
21 Carolina. The work group's recommendations shall include at least the following:

- 22 (1) Identification of an approved program of study of naturopathic medicine that
23 provides graduate-level, full-time didactic and supervised clinical training in
24 naturopathic medicine and is accredited by the Council on Naturopathic
25 Medical Education or an equivalent federally recognized accrediting body for
26 the naturopathic medical profession. The program must be offered by an
27 institution of higher education and lead to a degree as a Doctor of Naturopathic
28 Medicine, or equivalent.
- 29 (2) A scope of practice for naturopathic doctors, including the extent of their
30 responsibilities as licensed health care professionals; the extent of their ability
31 to diagnose and treat individuals in accordance with the method, thought, and
32 practice of naturopathic medicine and use of diagnostic techniques and
33 therapies; and their prescriptive authority.
- 34 (3) Whether the practice of naturopathic medicine should constitute the practice
35 of medicine or surgery as defined in Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.



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1 **SECTION 1.(c)** The work group shall report findings and recommendations to the
2 Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before January 15,
3 2019. The report shall include findings and recommendations on the topics outlined in this
4 section and other issues necessary to provide for the appropriate oversight and regulation of the
5 practice of naturopathic medicine in North Carolina. Additionally, the report shall also include
6 recommendations on appropriate fees for application, examination, certification, renewals, and
7 late renewals, as appropriate, to cover the costs associated with oversight.

8 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.