

**ARKANSAS SENATE**  
95th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2025  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of Senate Bill 117**

TO CREATE THE NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN PRACTICE ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR  
LICENSURE OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS IN ARKANSAS; AND TO CREATE A  
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ARKANSAS STATE  
MEDICAL BOARD.

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**Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 117**

Amend Senate Bill 117 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete lines 11 through 13, and substitute the following:

"PHYSICIANS IN ARKANSAS; TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NATUROPATHY;  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

AND

Delete the subtitle in its entirety and substitute:

"TO CREATE THE NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN  
PRACTICE ACT; TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF  
NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS IN ARKANSAS; AND  
TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF  
NATUROPATHY."

AND

Delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17 is amended to add an additional  
chapter to read as follows:

CHAPTER 108



NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN PRACTICE ACT

Subchapter 1 – General Provisions

17-108-101. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Naturopathic Physician Practice Act".

17-108-102. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) The practice of naturopathic medicine in this state affects the public health, safety, and welfare and should be subject to regulation and control in the public interest; and

(2) Naturopathic physicians comprise a distinct healthcare profession that affects the public health, safety, and welfare and increases freedom of choice in health care in this state.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that naturopathic physicians and the practice of naturopathic medicine as defined in this subchapter merit the confidence of the public, that only qualified persons be authorized to practice naturopathic medicine in this state, and that a person shall not practice naturopathic medicine without a valid existing license.

17-108-103. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Approved naturopathic medical school" means a medical school approved by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy under this subchapter that prepares a naturopathic physician for the practice of naturopathic medicine;

(2)(A) "Clinical laboratory procedure" means the use of venipuncture consistent with naturopathic medical practice, commonly used diagnostic modalities consistent with naturopathic practice, the recording of a patient's health history, physical examination, ordering and interpretation of radiographic diagnostics, and other standard imaging and examination of body orifices, excluding endoscopy and colonoscopy.

(B) "Clinical laboratory procedure" includes the practice

of obtaining samples of human tissues, except surgical excision beyond surgical excision that is authorized as a minor office procedure;

(3) "Homeopathic medicine" means a system of medicine based on the use of minimal doses of substances capable of producing symptoms similar to those of the disease treated, as listed in the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States;

(4) "Hygiene" means the use of preventive techniques, including personal hygiene, asepsis, public health, and safety;

(5) "Laboratory examination" means:

(A) Phlebotomy;

(B) A clinical laboratory procedure;

(C) An orificial examination;

(D) A physiological function test; and

(E) A screening or test that is consistent with

naturopathic education and training;

(6) "Minor office procedure" means minor surgical care and procedures, including:

(A) Surgical care incidental to superficial laceration, lesion or abrasion, excluding surgical care to treat a lesion suspected of malignancy;

(B) The removal of foreign bodies located in superficial structures, excluding the globe of the eye;

(C) Trigger point therapy;

(D) Dermal stimulation;

(E) Allergy testing and treatment; and

(F) The use of antiseptics and topical or local anesthetics;

(7) "Naturopathic medicine" means:

(A) A system of health care for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human health conditions, injury, and disease;

(B) The promotion or restoration of health; and

(C) The support and stimulation of a patient's inherent self-healing processes through patient education and the use of naturopathic therapies and therapeutic substances;

(8) "Naturopathic therapeutic medicine" means the use of one (1) or more of the following physical agents in a manner consistent with

naturopathic medical practice on a part or the whole of the body, by hand or by mechanical means, in the resolution of a human ailment or condition:

- (A) Air;
- (B) Water;
- (C) Heat;
- (D) Cold;
- (E) Sound;
- (F) Light;
- (G) Electromagnetism;
- (H) Colon hydrotherapy;
- (I) Soft tissue therapy;
- (J) Joint mobilization;
- (K) Therapeutic exercise; or
- (L) Naturopathic manipulation;

(9) "Naturopathic physician" means an individual licensed under this subchapter as a naturopathic physician to practice naturopathic medicine in this state;

(10) "Naturopathic therapy" means the use of:

- (A) Naturopathic therapeutic medicine;
- (B) Suggestion;
- (C) Hygiene;
- (D) A therapeutic substance;
- (E) Nutrition and food science;
- (F) Homeopathic medicine;
- (G) A clinical laboratory procedure; or
- (H) A minor office procedure;

(11) "Nutrition and food science" means the prevention and treatment of disease or other human conditions through the use of food, water, herbs, roots, bark, or natural food elements;

(12) "Professional examination" means a competency-based national naturopathic physician licensing examination administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners or its successor agency, which nationally administers a naturopathic examination that represents federal standards of education and training;

(13) "Suggestion" means a technique using:

- (A) Biofeedback;

- (B) Hypnosis;
- (C) Health education; or
- (D) Health counseling; and

(14) "Therapeutic substance" means any of the following exemplified in a standard naturopathic medical text, journal, or pharmacopeia:

- (A) A vitamin;
- (B) A mineral;
- (C) A nutraceutical;
- (D) A botanical medicine;
- (E) Oxygen;
- (F) A homeopathic medicine;
- (G) A hormone;
- (H) A hormonal or pharmaceutical contraceptive device; or
- (I) Other physiologic substance.

17-108-104. Exemptions.

This subchapter does not prohibit or restrict:

(1) The practice of a healthcare profession by an individual who is licensed, certified, or registered under the laws of this state and who is performing services within the individual's scope of practice;

(2) The practice of naturopathic medicine by a student enrolled in an approved naturopathic medical school if the practice of naturopathic medicine by a student is performed under a course of instruction or an assignment from an instructor and under the supervision of an instructor who is a licensee or a duly licensed professional in the instructed field;

(3) A person that sells a vitamin or herb from providing information about the vitamin or herb;

(4) The practice of naturopathic medicine by a person who is licensed to practice in any other state or district in the United States and who enters this state to consult with a naturopathic physician of this state if the consultation is limited to examination, recommendation, or testimony in litigation; or

(5) A person or practitioner who is not licensed as a naturopathic physician from recommending ayurvedic medicine, herbal remedies, nutritional advice, homeopathy, or other therapy that is within the scope of

practice of naturopathic medicine if that person or practitioner does not:

(A) Use a title protected under this subchapter;

(B) Represent or assume the character or appearance of a licensee of this subchapter; or

(C) Otherwise use a name, title, or other designation that indicates or implies that the person is a licensee of this subchapter.

17-108-105. Title protection.

(a) A licensee shall use the title "naturopathic physician" or "naturopathic doctor" and the recognized abbreviation "N.D."

(b) A licensee has the exclusive right to use the following terms in reference to the licensee's self:

(1) "Naturopathic physician";

(2) "Naturopathic doctor";

(3) "Doctor of naturopathic medicine";

(4) "Doctor of naturopathy";

(5) "N.D.";

(6) "ND";

(7) "NMD"; and

(8) "N.M.D."

(c) An individual represents the individual's self to be a naturopathic physician or a naturopathic doctor when the individual uses or adopts any of the terms in subdivisions (b)(1)-(8) of this section in reference to the individual's self.

(d)(1) An individual shall not represent the individual's self to the public as a naturopathic physician, naturopathic doctor, a doctor of naturopathic medicine, or a doctor of naturopathy, or as being otherwise authorized to practice naturopathic medicine in the state, unless the individual is licensed under this subchapter.

(2) An individual who is not licensed under this subchapter is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if he or she:

(A) Holds himself or herself out as a naturopathic physician or naturopathic doctor;

(B) Uses any combination or abbreviation of the term "naturopathic physician" or "naturopathic doctor" indicating or implying that he or she is a naturopathic physician or naturopathic doctor; or

(C) Acts as a naturopathic physician without being licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathic.

17-108-106. Approved naturopathic medical school.

(a) The Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy shall establish, by rule, guidelines for an approved naturopathic medical school and specifications for the education of naturopathic physicians in this state.

(b) The guidelines established under subsection (a) of this section shall include that the approved naturopathic medical school shall require at a minimum:

(1) Graduation from:

(A) A naturopathic medical education program in the United States providing the degree of Doctor of Naturopathy or Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine, that:

(i) Offers graduate-level, full-time didactic, and supervised clinical training;

(ii) Is accredited or has achieved candidacy status for accreditation by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education or an equivalent federally recognized accrediting body for naturopathic medical programs also recognized by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy; and

(iii) Is an institution of higher education or part of an institution of higher education that is either accredited or is a candidate for accreditation by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Secretary of Education;

(B) A degree-granting institution of higher education that, before the existence of the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education, offered a full-time, structured curriculum in basic sciences and supervised patient care comprising a doctoral naturopathic medical education requiring not less than one hundred thirty-two (132) weeks of coursework to be completed within a period of not less than thirty-five (35) months, that was reputable and in good standing in the judgment of the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy and which, if still in existence, has current programmatic accreditation by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education or a federally recognized equivalent accrediting agency;

(C) A diploma-granting, degree-equivalent institution of higher education located in Canada that, before the existence of the Council

on Naturopathic Medical Education, had provincial approval for participation in government-funded student aid programs, offered a full-time, structured curriculum in basic sciences and supervised patient care comprising a doctoral naturopathic medical education requiring not less than one hundred thirty-two (132) weeks of coursework to be completed within a period of not less than thirty (30) months, was reputable and in good standing in the judgment of the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy, and, if still in existence, has current programmatic accreditation by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education or a federally recognized equivalent accrediting agency, and currently has provincial approval for participation in government-funded student aid programs; or

(D) A diploma-granting, degree-equivalent institution of higher education located in Canada that has provincial approval for participation in government-funded student aid programs, offers graduate-level, full-time didactic, and supervised clinical training, and is accredited or has achieved candidacy status for accreditation by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education or an equivalent federally recognized accrediting body for naturopathic medical programs also recognized by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy; and

(2) Successful completion of a competency-based national naturopathic medicine licensing examination administered by the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners, or an equivalent agency recognized by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy, or, for graduates of approved naturopathic medical programs in the United States before the existence of the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education, a competency-based state naturopathic medicine licensing examination, or equivalent Canadian provincial licensing examination for the practice of naturopathic medicine approved by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy.

#### Subchapter 2 – Arkansas State Board of Naturopathic

17-108-201. Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy – Creation.

(a) There is created the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy.

(b)(1)(A) The board shall consist of thirteen (13) members appointed by the Governor for terms of six (6) years.

(B) The Governor shall consider diversity of practice



specialties and geographical areas of practice in making appointments to the board.

(2)(A)(i) Ten (10) members shall be qualified, licensed, and active naturopathic physicians appointed by the Governor and shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(ii) At least two (2) members shall be appointed from each of the state's four (4) congressional districts.

(iii) Two (2) members shall be appointed at large.

(B) Congressional district representation required under this subdivision (b)(2) shall be achieved by appointment as vacancies occur.

(3) One (1) member shall be a licensed practicing naturopathic physician in this state and shall be appointed by the Governor and shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(4)(A) Two (2) members of the board shall not be actively engaged in or be retired from the practice of naturopathic medicine.

(B) One (1) member shall represent consumers, and one (1) member shall be sixty (60) years of age or older and shall represent the elderly.

(C) Both shall be appointed from the state at large subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(D) The two (2) positions may not be held by the same person.

(E) Both shall be full voting members but shall not participate in the grading of examinations.

(c)(1) The term of each member shall expire on December 31 of the year designated, and a successor appointee shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, on or before the expiration date of the term expiring.

(2) A member may not serve on the board for more than two (2) full terms or more than thirteen (13) years.

(d) Vacancies on the board shall be filled by appointment by the Governor within thirty (30) days of the vacancy.

(e) The members of the board shall take the oath prescribed by the Arkansas Constitution for state officers before entering upon the discharge of their duties.

(f)(1) Members of the board may be removed from the office by the

Governor:

(A) For good cause under § 25-16-804;

(B) For cause including dishonorable or unprofessional conduct, abuse of authority, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance; or

(C) For any reason that would justify probation, suspension, or revocation of a license to practice naturopathic medicine.

(2) A member of the board shall not be involved in the investigation except to cooperate with the investigation as required by the investigator.

17-108-202. Organization and proceedings.

(a)(1) Within thirty (30) days after their appointment, the members of the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy shall meet and organize by electing a chair, vice chair, and treasurer.

(2) The Treasurer of the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy shall give bond in such amount as may be designated by the board, which may be increased or decreased from time to time, conditioned for the faithful disbursement and accounting of all moneys coming into his or her hands as the treasurer.

(b) The board shall hold its regular meetings as established by rule of the board and shall have the power to call and hold special meetings at such times and places as deemed necessary.

17-108-203. Powers and duties.

The Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy shall:

(1) Regulate the licensure of naturopathic physicians and determine the hours of continuing education units required for maintaining licensure as a naturopathic physician;

(2) Prescribe the manner in which records of examinations and treatments shall be kept and maintained;

(3) Establish:

(A) Standards for professional responsibility and conduct;

(B) Criteria for advertising or promotional materials;

(C) Continuing education hours and content;

(D) Standards for the state jurisprudence examination;

(E) Schedules for providing licensing examinations and for

the issuance of examination results;

(F) Procedures and standards for reviewing licensing examination scores;

(G) Procedures for reviewing transcripts demonstrating completion of an approved naturopathic medical school;

(H) Requirements for issuance and renewal of licenses; and

(I) Any other matter necessary to implement this chapter;

(4) Identify disciplinary actions and circumstances that require disciplinary action;

(5) Develop a means to provide information to all naturopathic physicians in the state;

(6) Provide for:

(A) The investigation of complaints against naturopathic physicians or persons holding themselves out as naturopathic physicians in the state;

(B) The publication of information for the public about naturopathic physicians and the practice of naturopathic medicine in the state; and

(C) An orderly process for reinstatement of a license; and

(7) Create and maintain a list of approved naturopathic medical schools that meet statutory requirements under this chapter.

### Subchapter 3 – Licensure

#### 17-108-301. Qualifications for licensure.

The Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy shall license an applicant who:

(1) Submits, in accordance with rules of the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy, the following items to the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy:

(A) An application for licensure developed by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy and submitted in accordance with rules of the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy;

(B) An application fee submitted in an amount and manner established by rules of the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy;

(C) Evidence that the applicant has:

(i) Graduated from an approved naturopathic medical

school;

(ii) Successful completed of a competency-based national naturopathic medicine licensing examination; and

(iii) Passed a state jurisprudence examination that meets standards established in rules of the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy; and

(D) Evidence of professional liability insurance with policy limits not less than prescribed by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy;

(2) Is determined by the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy to be physically and mentally capable of safely practicing naturopathic medicine with or without reasonable accommodation; and

(3) Has not had a license to practice naturopathic medicine or other healthcare license, registration, or certificate refused, revoked, or suspended by any other jurisdiction for reasons that relate to the applicant's ability to skillfully and safely practice naturopathic medicine unless that license, registration, or certification has been restored to good standing by that jurisdiction.

17-108-302. Scope of practice.

A licensee may practice naturopathic medicine to provide primary care in alignment with naturopathic medical education to:

(1) Perform physical examinations;

(2) Order laboratory examinations;

(3) Order diagnostic imaging studies;

(4) Interpret the results of laboratory examinations for diagnostic purposes;

(5) Order and, based on a radiologist's report, take action on diagnostic imaging studies in a manner consistent with naturopathic training;

(6) Prescribe, administer, dispense, and order food, extracts of food, nutraceuticals, vitamins, amino acids, minerals, enzymes, botanicals and their extracts, botanical medicines, homeopathic medicines, all dietary supplements, and nonprescription drugs as defined by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq., as existing on January 1, 2025;

(7) Administer intramuscular, intravenous, subcutaneous, intra-articular, and intradermal injections of substances appropriate to

naturopathic medicine;

(8) Use routes of administration that include oral, nasal, auricular, ocular, rectal, vaginal, transdermal, intradermal, subcutaneous, intravenous, intra-articular, and intramuscular consistent with the education and training of a naturopathic physician;

(9) Perform naturopathic therapeutic medicine;

(10) Employ the use of naturopathic therapy;

(11) Use therapeutic devices, barrier contraception, and durable medical equipment; and

(12) Perform minor office procedures.

17-108-303. Prohibitions.

A naturopathic physician shall not:

(1) Perform surgery outside of the scope of minor office procedures permitted in the employment of naturopathic therapy;

(2) Use general or spinal anesthetics;

(3) Administer ionizing radioactive substances for therapeutic purposes;

(4) Perform a surgical procedure:

(A) Using a laser device; or

(B) Involving any of the following areas of the body that extend beyond superficial tissue:

(i) Eye;

(ii) Ear;

(iii) Tendon;

(iv) Nerves;

(v) Veins; or

(vi) Artery;

(5) Perform a surgical abortion;

(6) Treat any lesion suspected of malignancy or requiring surgical removal; or

(7) Perform acupuncture.

17-108-304. License expiration and renewal – Denial and revocation – Continuing education.

(a) A license issued or renewed under this chapter shall expire two

(2) years following its issuance or renewal.

(b) The Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy may renew the license of any naturopathic physician who, upon the expiration of his or her license:

(1) Has submitted an application for renewal;

(2) Has paid the renewal fee established by rules of the board;

(3) Meets the qualifications for licensure under this subchapter and rules of the board; and

(4) Meets the continuing education requirements established by the board.

(c) The board shall grant an opportunity for a hearing to applicants and licensees for whom the board intends to refuse to issue or renew a license, or whose license the board proposes to revoke or suspend.

17-108-305. Display of license.

A naturopathic physician shall display his or her license in his or her place of business in a location clearly visible to his or her patients and shall also display evidence of the naturopathic physician having completed an approved naturopathic medical school.

17-108-306. Referral requirement.

A naturopathic physician shall refer to a physician licensed to practice in the state any patient whose medical condition is determined, at the time of evaluation or treatment, to be beyond the scope of practice of the naturopathic physician.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. Issuance of first licenses.

On or before December 1, 2025, the Arkansas State Board of Naturopathy shall issue licenses to those applicants who have met the requirements of this act and board rules promulgated in accordance with this act."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and \_\_\_\_\_

By: Senator C. Penzo

JMB343/JMB - 02-12-2025 12:34:17

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Secretary