



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-106

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0303

Date: February 7, 2017

Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Aguilar; Coram
Rep. Singer

Bill Status: Senate Health and Human Services
Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

BILL TOPIC: SUNSET REGISTRATION OF NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	
This bill changes and continues a program that would otherwise end September 1, 2017, so the fiscal note shows the new and continuing fiscal impacts.	New	New	Continuation
State Revenue		\$79,000	
Cash Funds			79,000
State Expenditures	Workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	\$69,371	
Cash Funds			69,371
TABOR Impact			\$79,000
FTE Position Change			0.5 FTE
Appropriation Required: None.			
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing revenue and expenditure increase.			

Summary of Legislation

This bill continues the registration of naturopathic doctors from September 1, 2017, when the program is set to expire, to September 1, 2022, and implements recommendations of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) sunset review. These recommendations include:

- requiring insurers to report malpractice settlements or judgments against naturopathic doctors to the director of the Division of Professions and Occupations;
- requiring naturopathic doctors to report child abuse or neglect;
- requiring naturopathic doctors to report abuse or exploitation of anyone who is elderly or intellectually or developmentally disabled;
- clarifying that the naturopathic formulary includes specified prescription medications and devices; and
- amending the name of the homeopathic pharmacopoeia to "Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Revision Service."

Background

Naturopathic doctors are healthcare providers who diagnose and treat acute and chronic conditions with an emphasis on prevention. Naturopathic doctors can perform minor surgery, such as repairing superficial wounds or removing foreign bodies. They are able to utilize prescription drugs, although their emphasis is on the use of natural healing agents. In FY 2015-16, Colorado had 137 registered naturopathic doctors. Current fees are \$975 for an original license and \$950 for a renewal.

Fiscal Impact of Programs Set to Expire

This bill continues a program in the Division of Professions and Occupations in the DORA that is set to repeal effective September 1, 2017. Under current law, state agencies may be appropriated funds to wind up the affairs of an expiring program for 12 months following the repeal date. There is no need for an appropriation of the base funding of \$69,371 in FY 2017-18, since the program's authorization has not yet expired, and ongoing funding for the program is included in DORA's base budget request for FY 2017-18. The state revenue and state expenditures impact for FY 2018-19 reflects the program's anticipated fee revenue and base budget from DORA's budget request for FY 2017-18 for the Division of Professions and Occupations. Costs are expected to be \$69,371 and 0.5 FTE in FY 2018-19. The anticipated base revenue is \$79,000 for one year of base expenditures.

TABOR Impact

This bill increases state cash fund revenue from fees, which will increase the amount of money required to be refunded under TABOR in FY 2018-19. TABOR refunds are paid out of the General Fund. Since the bill increases the TABOR refund obligation without a corresponding change in General Fund revenue, the amount of money available in the General Fund for the budget will decrease by an identical amount.

State Expenditures

The Division of Professions and Occupations in DORA will have an increase in workload under this bill. The division will update its rules to include the new provisions of the bill in FY 2017-18 as part of its annual rulemaking process. The provision that requires insurers to report malpractice settlements or judgments against naturopathic doctors to the director, may lead to additional investigations of naturopathic doctors. This workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology Law Regulatory Agencies