



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-106

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0303
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Aguilar; Coram
 Rep. Singer

Date: July 31, 2017
Bill Status: Signed into Law
Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

BILL TOPIC: SUNSET REGISTRATION OF NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS

| Fiscal Impact Summary | FY 2017-2018 | FY 2018-2019 |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|
| State Revenue | | <u>\$79,000</u> |
| <i>Continuing revenue</i> | | |
| Cash Funds | | 79,000 |
| State Expenditures | | <u>\$69,371</u> |
| <i>Continuing expenditures</i> | | |
| Cash Funds | | 69,371 |
| <i>New expenditures</i> | Workload increase. | |
| 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, 2020, and makes a number of changes including:

- 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;
- clarifying that naturopathic doctors can use the title "Registered Naturopathic Doctor", "Registered Doctor of Naturopathy", or the initials "R.N.D."; 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 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.

State Revenue

By continuing the registration of naturopathic doctors, state cash fund revenue will increase by \$79,000 per year beginning in FY 2018-19. Because the Legislative Council Staff revenue forecast already accounts for continued revenue from fees for the registration of naturopathic doctors, the continuing revenue in this bill does not require an adjustment to the amount required to be set aside in the budget for TABOR refunds.

State Expenditures

By continuing the registration of naturopathic doctors, the Division of Professions and Occupations in DORA will have an increase in expenditures of \$69,371 and 0.5 FTE beginning in FY 2018-19. Beginning in FY 2017-18, the division will have an increase in workload to implement the 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 was signed into law by the Governor on June 2, 2017, and takes effect August 9, 2017, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology

Law

Regulatory Agencies