

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26824

The proposed legislation would improve access to primary care in the state of Idaho by allowing naturopathic physicians who have graduated from an accredited naturopathic medical school and have passed an exam to fully practice naturopathic medicine in the state of Idaho. Currently, pharmacists are not allowed to fill prescriptions of non-licensed naturopathic physicians, preventing them from fully practicing their medical discipline for which they have been trained and educated. As a result, licensable naturopathic physicians have offices out of state and Idahoans are traveling out of state to get the primary care they desire.

The proposed legislation would add a Naturopathic Licensure Board. This board will be an advisory board to the Idaho Board of Medicine, established in the same manner as the respiratory therapist's board, the athletic trainer board, and the dieticians board. The proposed legislation would establish the powers and duties of the board, which include licensing naturopathic physicians.

It is important to note that the proposed legislation would not limit or change the scope of practice of naturopathic providers who are currently practicing in Idaho. It only expands the scope of practice for those who have been trained and educated as naturopathic physicians and want to be licensed. In addition, those who provide naturopathic services and refer to themselves a "Naturopathic Doctors" may continue to do so.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact to the general fund, because the cost to administer the licenses and regulate naturopathic physicians would be paid from licensure fees.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).